

The Royal Canadian Dragoons

SPRINGBOK



1975

THE SPRINGBOK
THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL
OF
THE ROYAL CANADIAN DRAGOONS



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LIEUTENANT COLONEL J.K. DANGERFIELD, CD
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BGen E.A. Amy, DSO, OBE, MC, CD
Colonel
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



LCol R.J. Brown, CD
34th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons



LCol J.K. Dangerfield
35th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

THE COLONEL OF THE REGIMENT'S
MESSAGE

Perhaps the most significant thing that happened to the Regimental Family in 1974 was the formation of "The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association". This came about through the initiative of a small group of the "Old Gang" from Montreal to whom we owe a vote of thanks. I attended their founding meeting and the fact that no less than seven of our past commanding officers showed up for the occasion gives some indication of the enthusiasm for the enterprise.

The Association will enable us to maintain contact with one another and equally important it will permit us to continue to support the Regiment and its various programs. As an example, our centennial is only 8 years away and I foresee it doing a great deal to help with the planning for that occasion. I hope that everyone who possibly can will support the Association so that Sid Williams, our first president, and his executive can get on with the development of the organization and some worthwhile programs.

When I wrote last year, the fate of the tank was a burning issue and while it is still not resolved, I believe that the problem is understood much better by the politicians. Recently the Minister of Defence stated "so long as Canada's land force is in Europe there is no question that they must have tanks". The problem now appears to be, to ensure that they understand the need to maintain a "credible fighting capability" in the force no matter where it is located and that includes Canada. We know that such a capability requires tanks within the combined arms team and that this need will continue until a more effective substitute comes along. If and when this happens, I believe soldiers will welcome its arrival and will not mourn the passing of the tank in other than a sentimental way.

My appointment as Colonel of the Regiment ends this summer so this is the last chance I will have to use the Springbok for a personal message. It has meant a great deal to me to have been Colonel of my old unit and to have had the privilege of serving with you for the past five years. I am only sorry that I have not been able to visit you more often particularly when you were in the field on exercises or on the ranges. Needless to say I am proud of the way you have maintained the skills and the "fighting spirit" so necessary in an armoured regiment and I want you to know that in this respect and in many other ways you have held the torch for our Corps and you have done it well.

I hope to be able to say goodbye personally before my appointment terminates, however, if this should not be possible, may I take advantage of this message to wish the Regiment and those who are serving with it continued success. My wife and I send our best wishes to each of you and your families and we look forward to seeing many of you again through our Regimental Association. Good Luck.

BGEN E.A.C. Amy, DSO, OBE, MC, CD
Colonel of the Regiment
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING OFFICER

I want to take this opportunity, and using this means, to express to all members of the Regiment a very sincere "well done" for 1974. I know I speak for my predecessor, as well as myself, in congratulating you on the manner in which you carried out the numerous tasks assigned to you.

1974 was a year of changes - changes in the Forces, policy changes in emphasis on training, and changes of personnel. But it will always be thus.

Within the Corps we did not get the expected decision and announcement on the future of the MBT. Whilst this is a great pity, we must not let it dominate our future policy thoughts. We do know we retain our role in NATO. We do know that to do this the Combat Arms Team is the key to winning on the battlefield. Ipsofacto, our training aims remain to prepare ourselves for our traditional armoured operational role. From what I have seen, the Regiment is ready for that role and all that need concern us in the future is to remain ready. The tank rebuild programme has prepared our equipment - it is now up to us to prepare our greatest resource - our people.

The beginning of the RCD Association is very welcome to me and, I am sure, to all members of the Regiment. This base in Canada will allow Dragoons there to keep in touch with the Regiment. I encourage you to contact the executive at:

.../5

The Royal Canadian Dragoon Association
P.O. Box 279
Cote des Neiges, Montreal
H3S 2S6

Readers of the 1974 Springbok may be a bit disconcerted at some of the "inside" content of the articles. I don't apologize for this, for the editorial staff is following my direction of gearing the publication towards those members of the Regiment now serving with it. I am sure our ERE and Old Comrades will understand.

As we go to print it appears as if we will not be able to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the engagement at Leliefontein on the actual date of 7 Nov, as the Regiment will be on exercise then. For planning purposes we ask all ERE and Old Comrades to pencil in the week of 13 - 18 Oct 75 for the celebration. As soon as firm plans are made we will be distributing the information to all. Please plan on joining us if you can.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the editorial staff and all members of the Regiment who contributed towards this publication. It is a good one.

J.K. Dangerfield
Lieutenant Colonel
35th Commanding Officer
The Royal Canadian Dragoons

MESSAGE FROM THE OBERBURGERMEISTER OF LAHR

DR. P. BRUCKER

I would like to convey the sincere best wishes of the City of Lahr and its citizens to the members and families of the Canadian Armed Forces here in Germany. I sincerely hope that your stay in our country and the resultant contact with our citizens will be a rewarding experience.

Since 1967 Lahr has become a temporary second home for numerous Canadians whose service in the interests of peace has led them to this location. The pleasant impressions and experiences have resulted in a lasting, inner contact with this friendly city and its charming landscape. We are very pleased with this rapport which not only exists on an individual level but which has also led to a close partnership between the two cities of Belleville, Ontario and Lahr.

I hope that the harmonious co-existence between Canadians and Germans in our city may continue to thrive. Mutual understanding and, arising from this, respect and good feeling over and above language and nationality differences are the desire and endeavour of all of us.

DRAGOONS CHANGE COMMAND

Lieutenant B.R. McCullough

As is a fact of life in the Armoured Corps, a senior officer has but one opportunity in his career to command an armoured regiment. Wednesday the 10th of July 1974 saw LCol R.J. Brown, CD relinquish his command of The Royal Canadian Dragoons to LCol J.K. Dangerfield, CD during a change of command parade in Lahr.

LCol Ron Brown had commanded the Regiment during the previous two years and was responsible for many of the improvements that the Regiment underwent. He saw, during his tenure, the introduction of the Centurion bridge layers which greatly enhance the mobility of the Regiment, and also the initiation of the Centurion rebuild programme. This rebuild programme will see twenty-four of the Regiment's tanks taken to Holland for complete refurbishing. Col Brown leaves the Regiment for his new post as OC Tactics Wing at the Combat Arms School, CFB Gagetown.

The new Commanding Officer, LCol Jack Dangerfield comes to the Regiment with a wealth of experience and training. He has served with the 8th Canadian Hussars, with the Strathconas both in Calgary and Germany, as an exchange officer with 1 British Division in Verden Germany, and most recently, with the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan.

The reviewing officer, BGen P.V.B. Grieve, CD, in his address to the guests and members of the Regiment spoke of the excellent work done by LCol Brown during his two-year tour of duty. He also took the occasion to thank Col and Mrs. Brown for their personal involvement in the social life of the Canadian military community of Lahr. Gen Grieve then wished good luck to the men of the RCD since he himself was handing over his command the following week. He returned to Canada where he took up a new post as Commandant of the Canadian Land Forces Command and Staff School in Kingston.

.../7

The Colonel of the Regiment, BGen E.A.C. Amy, DSO, OBE, MC, CD, bid farewell to LCol Brown and welcomed the new Commanding Officer, asking the officers and men to give him their wholehearted support. BGen Amy also presided at the ceremony of the signing of the Regimental Change of Command Scroll. The signatures of both the outgoing and incoming Commanding Officers were also recorded on the back of a cigarette package. As BGen Grieve was to explain to the audience, "armoured regiments have always been run on the back of a cigarette package", a colloquialism meaning that orders are brief and very general in order to permit maximum flexibility.

With the unit's equipment and vehicles providing a backdrop, Col Dangerfield then led the Regimental March Past.

The parade was followed by a reception at which the guests and members of the Regiment renewed acquaintances and exchanged anecdotes. That evening an all ranks dance was held where the members of the Regiment could more informally meet the new CO.

All ranks of The Royal Canadian Dragoons wish LCol Brown and his family the best of luck and stand fast behind LCol Dangerfield in his new command of the Regiment.

THE ECKHARDT MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The Eckhardt Memorial Plaque is awarded annually to the best all-round Junior NCO of the Regiment. All Master Corporals in the unit are considered by the selection committee under a strict set of criteria and the winner is presented his award during the Leliefontein celebrations.

The plaque was donated by the Sergeants' Mess in 1952 to honour the memory of L/Cpl R.S. Eckhardt. L/Cpl Eckhardt was a section leader in the Assault Troop of C Squadron. During a route march in Sicily in 1943 a sudden explosion killed 2 officers, 5 troopers and wounded twenty-seven others. L/Cpl Eckhardt, although severely wounded and burned, was the only NCO left in the troop. He sent a runner back to Squadron Headquarters and despite his own injuries he did all he could to treat the other wounded. He then ran approximately 3 miles to the nearest First Aid Station for help. Although admitted to hospital L/Cpl Eckhardt died eight days later. For his outstanding courage and devotion to duty L/Cpl Eckhardt was awarded the British Empire Medal posthumously.

The Memorial Plaque is presented annually so that the NCO's of the Regiment today can remember the deeds and the devotion to duty of L/Cpl Eckhardt.

MCpl Mervin "MOE" Morash is the 1974 winner of the Eckhardt Memorial Plaque. A native of Indian Harbour Nova Scotia, MCpl Morash joined the Canadian Forces in 1961. Upon completion of recruit training at Camp Borden, he joined C Squadron, The RCD at Camp Gagetown. From there he was transferred to Germany in 1964, and rebadged to FGH. When the FGH rotated to Canada in 1965 MCpl Morash remained and rebadged to LDSH(RC), the incoming Regiment. Completing his Germany tour in 1968, MCpl Morash returned once again to the RCD in Gagetown and was employed in A Squadron until 1970 and then at the Combat Arms School until 1971. In Jan 1971 he was posted to B Squadron, The RCD in Germany where he was employed in Second Troop until Sep 1973 and then as Squadron Administrative NCO.

MCpl Morash is married and lives on the economy in Lahr with his wife Gabriele, son Ralph and daughter Julia. He is due to be rotated to Canada in the summer of 1975.

THE ALLIED REGIMENT - THE BLUES AND ROYALS

DIARY OF EVENTS 1974

In January as always we were not complete at Windsor. A and B Squadrons were with us but C Squadron spent their Christmas in Northern Ireland.

1974 got off to a bad start with the Regiment, along with the rest of the country, facing the uncertainty of the fuel crisis and fully realising how drastically our lives could be changed. However, we were not to be allowed to brood on this for any length of time for on 5th January the first full Heathrow Security alert blew up to conform with the best of military crises - both at the weekend and the middle of the night. This involved B Squadron, assisted by A Squadron, fielding a different vehicle organization on four consecutive days to please the whims of the politicians - a feat which belied the "nine to five army" accusations in the press and also quietened the "Tanks in London" headlines.

At the end of January, A Squadron finally got away for their Arctic Exercise, which was greatly reduced because of the fuel crisis. The first cut, apart from the numerical one, was the change from a flight to a sea passage, during which the North Sea obliged with a Force 12 Gale.



LCol R.J. Brown hands over the Regiment to LCol J.K. Dangerfield.



MCpl M.R. Morash receives the Eckhardt Trophy from RSM C.F. Yeomans.



LCol R.J. BROWN SADDLE BLANKET RECORD OF REGIMENTAL SERVICE

- 2 - 2 Tp B Squ (1955)
- 83 - 2IC Recce Tp (1956)
- 2 - 2 Tp A Squ (1957-58)
- 3 - 3 Tp C Squ (1959)
- 17A - 10 (1960)
- 108 - Battle Capt A Squ (1961)
- 9B - Adjutant (1961)
- 99 - OC HQ Squ (1963)
- 29 - OC B Squ (1969)
- 9 - CO (1972-74)

C Squadron's tour in Aldergrove saw one of the major changes in our role in Northern Ireland which was the extraction of the last troop permanently based in Belfast, and the whole squadron after this was available for working in the countryside rather than the City. They handed over to B Squadron at the end of February.

Our FFR inspection was carried out by Major General R.E. Worsley, GOC 3 Div, on 1st May. He saw what squadrons we had performing many mixed tasks, and the day culminated with luncheon in the field in Windsor Great Park.

We spent the Spring worrying about the implications of the stringent fuel restrictions and perfecting the art of moving squadrons by train when A and C Squadrons carried out their annual firing at Castlemartin.

B Squadron returned from Northern Ireland in June and handed over to A Squadron. An interesting statistic that emerged from the B Squadron tour was that they narrowly lost more arms than they found following the sinking of an assault craft on Lough Neagh.

B Squadron had only just returned from leave after Northern Ireland when the Cyprus emergency blew up, and it turned out to be every Quartermasters dream as hitherto unavailable spares came rolling in. They finally left for Cyprus together with their Scorpions on 22nd July. The 'tanks' were greeted cautiously on the island and were totally restricted throughout their two month tour to the Sovereign Base Area of Akrotiri.

During this period C Squadron got their turn for a Security Operation and the 'ring of steel' was again clamped around the airport at the end of June, much to the dismay of many a petty criminal who was caught out.

At the height of the August Bank Holiday the remainder of the Regiment - C Squadron and HQ Squadron - found themselves on Salisbury Plain taking part in Exercise SALMON LEAP, an ambitious and enjoyable exercise which involved all the Armoured Corps troops that could be mustered from the South of England, but Cyprus and Ireland took its toll.

The return of A Squadron from Northern Ireland at the beginning of September ended a run of almost a year during which time the Regiment was continuously represented at Aldergrove. On their return they were still required to prepare for the Autumn AMF(L) exercise in Turkey, which was not finally cancelled until very much the eleventh hour despite the writing being on the wall for many weeks beforehand. Their exercise was replaced by a small CPX in Southern Germany. C Squadron had a very successful period of Annual Firing at Castlemartin.

HQ Squadron have always had to stay in Windsor and watch the remaining squadrons revolve around the world, but in September they had their chance and Exercise PACIFIC, in the Far East, took them to the steamy Malaysian jungles to discover the arts of Jungle Warfare. This was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Also at the end of September, despite the chilly security atmosphere, we held our Association 'At Home Day' on 29th September. This took the form of a Church Parade and various displays and side-shows in the afternoon. Over 2,500 members attended.

The main event of the winter was the Major General's Inspection on Friday, 29th November, which involved some fairly ambitious, even if well practiced, footdrill. Fortunately the entire day was a great success. After the Parade, B Squadron went to Castlemartin for their Annual Firing and A Squadron to Thetford for Troop and Squadron training.

The Colonel of the Regiment came down for the Carol Service and Christmas lunch on 19th December, which heralded the start of the Christmas break, excluding the administrative chores.

The year was outstandingly successful from the sporting point of view. Major A H Parker Bowles won the Grand Military at Sandown on 'Paki', the football team won the Cavalry Cup, and the Polo Team won the Inter-Regimental - a unique treble.

We have had many notable visitors, not mentioned in these notes. Brigadier General Cedershiold, the Director of the Swedish Armoured Corps, Major General R M Carnegie, GOC 3 Div, Major General J M Brockbank, DRAC, and a farewell visit from General Sir Desmond Fitzpatrick as Deputy Colonel, and Lady Fitzpatrick, at the end of November.

We look forward to 1975 with each squadron having a firm target before moving to BAOR in October. A Squadron will continue with their AMF role; B Squadron will convert to tanks and take part in an exchange exercise in the West Indies, and C Squadron have another tour in Northern Ireland.

The Blues and Royals



21.1 Michael Gurney being briefed on the .50 cal machine gun by MCpl Burton Justason.



B Squadron *Scorpion* on guard.

LELIEFONTEIN - 1974

Lieutenant C.H. Watson

The Battle of Leliefontein, fought on 7 November 1900, remains as the most noteworthy engagement in which the Royal Canadian Dragoons have taken part. A minor skirmish against Boer troops during the South African War, it produced in one morning three Victoria Crosses for the Regiment. The winners, Lieutenant H.Z.C. Cockburn, Lieutenant R.E.W. Turner and Sergeant E.J. Holland, all survived the engagement. As recipients of the highest award a member of the Forces could receive, these men have always been remembered with great pride by the Regiment.

In 1974 the Regiment devoted three days to the seventy-fourth anniversary of Leliefontein. As always, ceremonies were centered around the formal parade, held this year on the afternoon of 8 November 1974. The format of the parade began with the arrival of this year's Reviewing Officer, Brigadier General C.H. Belzile, CD, Commander 4 CMBG. The Colonel of the Regiment, Brigadier General E.A.C. Amy, who normally would have reviewed the Regiment, was unfortunately unable to attend. Following the inspection of the Regiment, a Memorial Drumhead Service for fallen comrades was held. Brigadier General Belzile then presented various trophies to the winners of this year's Regimental Gunnery Competitions. Following the presentations, he addressed the Regiment during which he reviewed some of the Regiment's past achievements and congratulated all ranks for their performance during the recently completed fall exercises. The Regiment then marched past. The parade concluded with a mounted roll past featuring the unit's tracked vehicles, tanks of A and B Squadrons, Lynx of C Squadron and the light tracked vehicles of RHQ and Headquarters Squadrons. The afternoon was completed by a well attended post parade reception in the North Marguerite Hanger, in which members of the unit entertained their guests in a truly Regimental atmosphere.

Other activities during the celebrations were equally as successful. A Sports Competition, held on the previous day, stressed 'fun and games' and featured such events as tug of war, jousting, murder ball, pillow fights, greased pole and dunking. A little less demanding but undoubtedly more enjoyable for the participants was the All Ranks Dance held the evening of the eighth. The turn out was excellent, reflecting the spirit of the overall celebration. A Mixed Formal Dinner held by the Officers on 9 November 1974 completed the main social functions of the celebration and officially ended Leliefontein 1974.

Next year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Leliefontein. Preliminary planning has already begun with the purpose of making this a major celebration. It is hoped that as many ERE Dragoons and Old Comrades as possible will be able to attend in 1975.

NIJMEGEN 1974

Captain P.C. Lancaster

The Nijmegen Marches have become an institution in the Regiment. Our attendance has been regular since arriving in Europe despite the difficulties and restrictions on training imposed by a very full schedule of other commitments. To those who have had no contact with the philosophy of Nijmegen I shall attempt to explain what it is that drives people year after year to endure the physical agony imposed by this event.

Many Nijmegen veterans will agree when I say that first and foremost amongst the attractions is the challenge to the individual presented by the hundred mile course. I believe that every man who participates has at heart the desire to succeed and to prove to himself and the Regiment that he can endure. It is a credit to our unit that in addition to all our other commitments we can consistently produce such good walkers, and are able to outwalk the rest of the Canadian Contingent with such ease when most of our other training is not done on foot. The desire to meet a challenge and the consequent pride instilled in oneself when that challenge is met and bested must provide strong motivation to the members of our Regiment and to all of the Canadian Contingent.

Experienced Nijmegen Vets such as Sgt Vic Harvie would probably try to convince you that his attendance this year was due to an attack of temporary insanity that disappeared at daylight on the second day as he drew on his boots. MCpl Wolf Funke will merely shrug and tell you that as one of the world's foremost connoisseurs of brewery products, he just could not bring himself to let an opportunity to drink fine old Dutch beer go by. Cpl Beebe would most likely say that walking flattens the feet and flat feet are as good as flippers in a water polo match. Cpl Conrad would swear he was only trying to lose weight. Sgt Shea, the team medic would answer any question put to him about Nijmegen with a mute sadistic leer followed by a hideously malicious snicker at the thought of all the pain he had inflicted.

Of course one of the most influential factors in drawing people to the marches must be the Mardi-Gras atmosphere promoted by the world famous Dutch Hospitality. The town literally throws open its doors and for a week the marchers can do no wrong. The warmth of the local hospitality can not be fully appreciated until you have seen it with your own eyes.

Many of the civilian marchers might be termed addicts as Nijmegen is for them a yearly event not to be missed. Some of the more senior participants wore pins indicating over fifty trips to the event. This year, approximately ten thousand civilians took part in the March and many more attended as spectators. Many nations were also represented by military contingents. Canada was represented by one hundred and thirty of her finest while England had the largest outfit numbering nearly 1,200.

Friendly rivalries are always quick to spring up between the military teams as each tries to out sing and out march the rest. After the first day the atmosphere is pervaded with friendly comradeship as pain in the lower regions of the body becomes a common feeling for all. The second and third days of the march provide a true test of determination as it becomes more and more difficult to get out of bed and get started. Each day seems to start earlier than the last. Indeed as the social life gains speed the nights do shorten considerably. It might be added here that this year the Regimental team distinguished itself in this area.

The Nijmegen committee (as well as having beautiful daughters) claim that the aim of the march is to promote good health and friendship, not to create an endurance competition. They advise very strongly, in their brochure, against trying to march without being in excellent physical shape. This year's training, although crammed into odd hours of the day, appeared to be more than adequate. Considering the physical benefit and enjoyment acclaimed by all marchers, it is an event which should always be participated in by the Regiment.

The Nijmegen Marches offer a unique experience to soldiers of all ranks. It is one of the few opportunities left for the soldier to prove to himself his own capabilities. Its value as a training vehicle which promotes physical fitness, determination, and self confidence cannot be over-estimated. Perhaps it would be worthwhile taking a lesson from the British Forces and putting more emphasis on this event in our training calendar. At no other time in the year does the soldier have the chance to accept a challenge of this magnitude on an individual basis. At no other time during the year is a soldier able to feel so much pride in himself and his unit as he does during the last four kilometers.

Let us hope that this very worthwhile event continues to be a strongly supported Regimental commitment. Both the individual and the Regiment can gain a great deal from the experience.

RCD GUNNERY 1974

Captain R.E. Hook

Regimental tank gunnery went through a trying but worthwhile year during 1974. The unit suffered from a lack of properly qualified and current Gunnery Instructors. Despite this, a strong series of courses were run prior to Christmas in order to update the IG's, refresh the crew commanders on the basics and more advanced techniques, and finally to train some forty-four new crewmen as tank gunners. The new gunners culminated their unit training with the open range firing during the first gun camp in Jan 74.

The Combat Arms School, for the first time since 1969, ran an Advanced Armoured Gunnery Course in the fall of 1973. The unit was able to send three Dragoons on this course - Capt Ray Hook, now the Regimental Gunnery Officer, Sgt Mike Johnson and WO Frank Smith, both of whom are members of the unit IG team. They returned to Lahr just in time to assist with the Regiment's teaching gun camp at Hohne in mid January 74. Since that time, the arrival of four other newly qualified IG's has bolstered the IG team somewhat. They are Capt Roger Sashaw, Capt Terry Tanguay, WO Ron Lepine and Sgt Dave Ritchie.

The teaching gun camp in Jan/Feb 74 lasted three weeks. A Squadron and C Squadron fired during the first ten days and B Squadron fired during the last half. Both tank squadrons made full use of good range allocation and they finished their camps with two days of battle runs. C Squadron, unfortunately, had to spend a lot of time static on the pad and not on crew and patrol battle runs as was hoped for. Their particular situation was resolved during the second gun camp.

In addition to the regular crews, two crews from our unofficial American liaison battalion, the 5th/68th Tank Battalion fired as members of A and B Squadrons. Prior to the actual camp, both crews underwent orientation training with the troops they were attached to; then they travelled to Hohne and participated fully as tank crews. Their performance was creditable and their comments were interesting and favourable. Interestingly enough, their

crew commanders preferred the .50 cal RMG to their own laser rangefinding system in conditions of poor visibility.

The purpose of the training gun camp had been to complete the training of the new gunners, to refresh some first line gunners and to put through all second line gunners. Of the forty-four candidates, only four failed to achieve the required standard on the open range practices. The gun camp was a success. The standard of gunnery achieved was appropriate to the level of training.

Following the close of the first gun camp, the refresher training for the competition gun camp had to be initiated right away in order to be completed in time for the competition. The Regimental twelve week continuation gunnery program for the tank squadrons had to be completed to allow the first part of the competition - the Regimental Performance Objective (PO) Checks - to be conducted. The PO Checks were also designed to rate the effectiveness of the refresher program. The results were excellent and led people to believe that the next gun camp would be a good one. C Squadron attempted to conduct an intensive two week refresher course, but this was constantly interrupted due to unforeseen commitments and taskings. Despite these problems, C Squadron completed its refresher training and eventually made up their lost ground during the first two days on the pad.

The tank squadrons competition was to be judged on the total of three different, progressively more difficult battle runs. Each squadron was given the first two days of their respective firing periods to complete certain prescribed practices in preparation for the battle runs.

The tank gunnery competition was later altered so that winners would be decided on the results of a single battle run plus the PO Checks. Manning problems forced both squadrons to reduce crews; A Squadron configured their twelve tanks into three troops of four tanks each; B Squadron to four troops of three tanks. Thus the competition did not get off to a standardized beginning. Mathematics aside, after the dust had settled from WO "Willie" Williamson's last round in the pouring rain on 5 Jul 74, the competition results were kept secret until LCol R.J. Brown's farewell parade as outgoing Commanding Officer. The results were most favourable to B Squadron; they won three of the four trophies.

The Challenge Cup went to the crew of C/S 12 A Squadron, commanded by the Troop Leader, Capt Terry Tanguay. Lt Bruce McCullough, however on his very first battle run in tanks, narrowly missed taking the Cup,

coming in second overall only fifteen points behind. Captain Jack Gallop, Sgt Zimmerman, MCpl Bernard and the members of Third Troop B Squadron dominated the other six troops to take the Turner Trophy as best overall tank troop. Major Norm Ashton accepted the coveted Ram's Head Trophy, symbolic of the best tank squadron on the battle runs, and the Purdy Trophy for the best overall tank squadron. This culminated quite an uphill struggle for B Squadron in winning back the "silver" from A Squadron.

C Squadron enjoyed a successful camp from start to finish. Their high point came during the patrol battle run competition on the last day. The weather cooperated and, for a change, range fires weren't a great problem. The standard of .50 cal gunnery and weapons handling steadily improved throughout the camp to quite a high degree. Besides the usual MG engagements against typical stationary and moving targets, crew commanders practiced their anti aircraft techniques with a fair degree of success. The results of the patrol battle run competition were:

BEST PATROL C/S 33A

C/S 33D

CC Sgt Mike Alcock
OBS Cpl Flewelling
DVR Cpl Al Barr

CC MCpl Terry Leblanc
OBS Cpl Fred Bierhorst
DVR Cpl Rick Marchioni

BEST CREW C/S 31B

CC MCpl Don Everaert
OBS Cpl Groovy Grover
DVR Cpl Peter King

Prior to his departure, LCol R.J. Brown agreed to donate a suitable trophy to be awarded annually to the best overall C Squadron crew during the competition gun camp. The trophy will be available for its first presentation following the 1975 Competition Gun Camp.

As long as there are tanks, there will be a requirement for the art of tank gunner; it continues to be the most important trade in the Branch. Despite individual abilities, techniques must be reviewed and basics practised and perfected every time tanks go to the ranges. Every round fired down range must have some training value attached to it. No one, be it gunner, loader, crew commander, troop leader, or squadron commander, can afford to lose sight of the reason for tank gunnery.

HOHENFELS

Lieutenant G.C. Moore

To many people, the place name HOHENFELS, means many things. For those who arrive in mid-August from Canada, Hohenfels is their indoctrination to 4 CMBG by fire, much the same as learning to swim by being thrown into the deep end of a swimming pool. For others, Hohenfels is a unit of time used to tick off the year's in Europe, such as in "my last Hohenfels". To those who remain behind, Hohenfels means shorter lines in the bank and theatre, whereas to others it heralds hectic harassing by harried housewives whose herbie husbands hesitatingly headed to Hohenfels. Basically however, Hohenfels is a place. It is the United States 7th Army European combat training area, situated between Regensburg and Nuremburg in central Germany. (Training time permitting, the members of 4 Brigade often have the opportunity to sample the stimulating and varied cultures of these well known cities.) The training area has become the site of the Brigade's annual fall concentration, and it is here that the training calendars are rounded out.

For the RCD, Hohenfels was kicked off on September 12, as the regimental advanced party hit the road, followed on the thirteenth by the main road party and tank trains. As usual the road moves were controlled by Headquarters Squadron, and the tank train timings were simply bureaucratic estimates which seldom reflected reality. On arrival in Hohenfels Headquarters Squadron and the SSM's set about to set up the camp, which was no small task. The sabre squadrons wasted no time in heading out into the weeds, as A Squadron moved out on arrival on Saturday, followed the next day by B and C Squadrons. All Squadrons started off by shaking out at the crew and troop levels. A Squadron started with a night navigation exercise, followed the next day by troop training. B Squadron started out with troop drills and formations, and also moved into a night navigation exercise, where they vied with C Squadron's Lynxes for training area routes. With all vehicles moving completely blacked out on a cloudy night, Centurions and Lynxes often passed within feet of each other, almost unseen.

While B and C Squadrons were doing their night navigation Sunday evening A Squadron began battle procedure for a three day squadron exercise. This exercise emphasized night operations, with approach marches and night attacks being highlighted. Following the exercise and a day of maintenance, they then joined the "Van Doos" for tank/infantry cooperation training.

This was done at both the Company/Troop and Platoon/Troop levels, in all phases of war. In order to meet the maintenance bill, the Squadron sent a troop back to the three companies, with the fourth troop being rotated out for troop training and vital maintenance.

B Squadron meanwhile, which had started the weekend with troop training, joined up with 3 Mech Cdo on the 18th for three days of tank/infantry cooperation. The squadron was broken down into two individual troops and a half squadron, so that the company commanders had a variety of tank strengths to train with.

While the tank squadrons spent the first week tearing up the Hohenfels training area, C Squadron moved out into the Requisition Manoeuvre Area. The first two days were spent in troop level training under the troop leader's control. All phases of recce operations were included in the training, with each troop having a separate area to work in. This was followed by a day of technical training, with the soldiers being taught the basics of bridge classifying. Eventually formula such as $M = N 158 + D (1.07 + 0.34 + 0.027S + 0.776 - 24.1) + .0.08 L^2$ had many soldiers visiting the local PX in search of pocket slide rules. The last two days of the first week were spent working with B Flight of 444 Tac Hel Squadron. Here the crews of both the Lynxes and Kiowas practised the drills which had been worked out the previous spring. On the return trip to Hohenfels base camp, a technical, non-tactical, route recce exercise was conducted, emphasizing bridge and road classifying. Generally, the Squadron, which normally operates across the whole Brigade front, found that being in the RMA added to the success of the training by giving greater freedom of movement and more varied terrain.

RHQ also surprised everyone during the first week by moving out of base camp for three days for a CPX. This was a shake-out exercise prior to Reforger, and enabled the CO to sort out the organization as he wanted it.

The second Sunday in Hohenfels saw both tank squadrons head off with the infantry battalions for battalion level exercises. A Squadron with the "Van Doos" trained in all phases of war for three days, while B Squadron with 3 Mech Cdo practised the deliberate defence. Following their exercise, A Squadron went back to company level training, but with a half squadron being the basic tank unit. B Squadron spent a day of company/troop training after their exercise, a day of maintenance, and then moved into company/troop test traces. In order to put all companies through their paces in these tests, the battalion CO sent the first company across the start

line at first light. The exercise involved all the drills in the advance, a quick attack, and a deliberate attack.

C Squadron spent the second week in the RMA as well. This time a squadron exercise was run by the OC, with each troop taking a turn as enemy. Advance, withdrawal and screen operations were practised with the helicopters from 444 Tac Hel, who managed to log many hours of flying in support of the troops.

HQ Squadron also moved outside base camp for a short exercise, Mountain Wanderer VI. (One wonders if the exercise title has any map reading connotations.) The aim of the exercise was to practise the Squadron in the new SOP's, harbouring, road moves, camouflage, NBCW drills, defensive drills, anti-ambush drills, and resupply and DP procedures. C Squadron provided a small enemy force for parts of the exercise. One real problem was injected when a German civilian vehicle drove into the tail of the QM convoy during an early morning move. The soldiers in the convoy took immediate steps to administer first aid to the occupants of the car, one of which was seriously injured.

On September 28, a fire effects demonstration was coordinated by the "Van Doos" for the Brigade. During the demonstration, all calibres of weapons were fired, from SMG's up to a Regiment of 155's. The highlight of the demonstration, in most minds, was the demonstration of Centurion Tank gunnery, by Third Troop A Squadron under Lt Will MacDonald and C/S 14C, with Sgt Johnston crew commanding. Engaging a variety of targets, from cement walls to dug-in platoon positions, both crews impressed all spectators with the speed and accuracy of their fire. Many of the onlookers, who had not seen a similar display before, gained new respect for the weapon.

Following the fire effects demonstration, the battalions started battle procedure for the Brigade controlled exercise, PONY EXPRESS. They moved to their respective concentration areas with the tank squadrons under command. Designed to exercise the deliberate defence and its battle procedure, the two battalions started to dig in, facing but out of sight of each other. C Squadron provided the enemy force for both sides. The high point for the enemy came during the second night of the exercise, when Lt Rick Dill led Third Troop through Mech Cdo lines and Lt Gary Moore took Second Troop through Van Doo lines. Second Troop, without being detected, was able to identify all company positions and battalion headquarters. They attacked the

latter with para flares and artillery barrages, accurately delivered by the umpires. This, plus similar actions by Third Troop, caused both battalion headquarters to move, with no small amount of concern in both locations. Later B Squadron, as part of a heli-borne/tank combat team commanded by the squadron commander, became involved in an attack up a mountain, while A Squadron languished in various hides, practising crew cooking and rest. At one point during the exercise, NBC operations were played, with the troops spending up to 12 hours in the closed state. The Exercise terminated with both battalions retreating away from each other, with A Squadron and the "Van Doos" having the "opportunity" to be decontaminated, by the German 210 ABC Defence Battalion. Throughout the whole exercise, RHQ provided the umpire staff for the Van Doo side of the "conflict".

Pony Express brought the Hohenfels period to a close, and the troops under Headquarters Squadron direction set about clearing and cleaning the camp. Much had been accomplished. Besides the field training mentioned, the bridgelayers went out with the Mech Cdo on an exercise, as well as a 4 Field Squadron exercise. This was the first time the Field Squadron had had AVLB's under command for years, and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As well as the field training, all squadrons except A carried out classification training on various days. Small arms, demolition, grenade, and M72 ranges were all run. On October 2 the Regiment left Hohenfels for the Reforger assembly area. For many it was their "last Hohenfels", but for many others it provided the opportunity for them to be able to say a year hence, "Same as last year".

EXERCISE REFORGER VI 1974

Captain D.E. Green

With Exercise Pony Express bringing the Hohenfels period to a close, the stage was set for Exercise Reforger VI preparations. The second of October saw the Regiment leaver until 08 Oct. The combined Officer/NCO's and Junior NCO's/Private mess tents were quickly established and these in conjunction with the always excellent meals prepared by the cooks provided some warmth against the drizzly cool weather. Recreation runs to Munich, Nurnberg and Regensburg were provided by the Service Battalion and these plus two presentations by USO entertainers provided some outlet to the Regiment. Concurrent with this activity, two bus trips were arranged so that a total of 190 people got home to Lahr for a 48 hour pass. It cost money from

our own pockets to get home but it was worth it. Just ask the stowaway on the first trip. (I wonder where he hid.) Those who went down to Lahr on the second trip (6-8 Oct) were keeping their fingers crossed, hoping that the war wouldn't start until 9 or 10 Oct. Our crystal ball gazing didn't pay off. We arrived back at the Leaguer in the black of night only to find vehicles lining up for a move. Supplemental orders were hurriedly passed, vehicles and uniforms were found and the Regiment moved shortly after. Reforger had begun in earnest (and so had the rain).

Reforger represents the climax of the annual Regimental training cycle, and individual and collective training efforts at all levels are put to a final consolidated test. This year Reforger was a 10 day formation exercise which cut a 60 by 30 mile swath west of Regensburg and just north of the famous Donau River.

The scenario saw 4 CMBG under command of the First Armoured Division (Old Ironsides) playing the role of the enemy. The friendly forces were represented by First Infantry Division supplemented by a German Panzer Grenadier Brigade.

Working with the First Armoured Division gave us a chance to test our flexibility; during the course of the exercise 4 CMBG moved from right rear to left forward to center forward to left forward. For a bird the distance travelled would be about 140 miles; for the Regiment's vehicles it was closer to 300 miles.

As the Brigade screen, C Squadron was augmented by A Troop 1/1 Armoured Cavalry for the duration of the exercise. This increase in vehicles and fire power gave C Squadron the necessary punch to tackle the opposition, specifically an American Cavalry Squadron.

In general, the tanks squadrons formed combat teams within the battle group structures. The 16 tank crews in each of A and B Squadrons sustained few exercise casualties but unfortunately many real casualties. Squadron, troop, and crew spirit prevailed however and many tanks completed Reforger 'bloody but unbowed' with two and three man crews. All tank crews constantly tipped their hats to our maintenance crews who kept them on the road through the worst weather Reforger had been encountered in years.

This was the first Reforger with the newly acquired AVLB. Although the bridgelayers were intended to facilitate movement for the tanks, peace time restrictions and a cumbersome profile resulted in their employment being a problem, particularly because the area was crisscrossed by low underpasses and was sorely lacking in class 60 routes.

In a series of attack withdraw and counter attack actions combined with shifts from rear to left, center and left the Regiment once again got a feeling of what our business is all about. Despite unprecedented wet weather, long supply lines, equipment breakdowns and crew fatigue, Reforger VI once again proved its value as a training vehicle.

ARTICLES

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The 1972 and 1973 editions of the Regimental Journal included a section devoted to the discussion of several contentious aspects of our profession. As a result of the continuing popularity of this forum, some members of the Regiment have once again submitted articles, some of which pertain to armour alone, some of which pertain to the military in general but all of which should be of interest to us as professionals.

In addition to these articles, we have also included excerpts of a letter by Major General Donn A. Starry, Commanding Officer of the US Army Armour Centre, outlining US views on tank and anti-tank warfare in the future based on studies of the Yom Kippur War.

It is hoped that all articles are thought provoking and of a broad enough scope to form a basis for healthy discussion. In addition, personnel no longer serving at the Regiment are encouraged to comment on these or any other timely topics with a view towards contributing to next year's Journal.

Bergen-Hohne



"106, 107, 108..."



"All we need is a gun and we're all set..."



"I know he should be wearing them but his finger is stuck."



"Cor... that was the worst battle run I've ever seen."



ARMOUR CENTER TEAM

ANALYSIS OF YOM KIPPUR WAR

Many observations have been made and lessons drawn from recent battles in the deserts of the Middle East. Possibly the most striking observation to be made about the October War is how dramatically warfare has changed since World War II. It is true that the change has been steady and evolutionary, but it has also been rapid. The range, accuracy, and lethality of modern tank guns make them at least five times as effective as tank guns of World War II. The antitank guided missile has now appeared in significant numbers; it is an accurate and deadly weapon to ranges of 3000 meters. The lethality of artillery ammunition is at least ten times that of World War II munitions. Armies are increasingly able to fight at night using new and sophisticated sighting and sensing gear. All this means that individuals and weapon systems which are incorrectly employed in battle stand a high chance of being destroyed. The losses of tanks and other combat vehicles in the October War are ample testimony to the mutual destructive power of modern combat forces locked in violent combat for high stakes.

We therefore conclude that modern weaponry has achieved a state of effectiveness such that any element which exposes itself on the battlefield can be destroyed unless one of three conditions has been met:

- * Enemy weapons which could engage the exposed element have been destroyed or suppressed, or
- * the ability of enemy gunners to acquire and fire on the target has been inhibited by fog, smoke, night, bad weather, or by clever use of all natural terrain cover and concealment by combat elements moving on the battlefield.

Zooming in closer to our problem, we believe the critical lessons of October 1973 to be these:

- * Long range, high velocity tank cannon, and long range antiarmour missile systems dominate the modern battlefield. Their range capabilities are such that anything that can be seen can be taken under fire and hit. They are so lethal that anything they can hit can be killed.
- * Long range air defense cannon and missile systems dominate the air above the forward battle area. Their effectiveness is such that they can deny forward fighting elements effective close air support; they severely limit the operating profiles of low, slow flying platforms of the Army aircraft fleet.

- * The US Army must learn to fight outnumbered and win. The masses of armour and air defense weaponry employed by Israel's foes not only testify to a Soviet ability to supply her allies with vast amounts of first line material, but portend the masses of such systems the Soviets themselves would use. The tank force ratios on the Golan Heights in October 1973 were not at all unlike those to be expected in Central Europe should war occur there.

These facts indicate a need for a revised set of priorities; they are:

- * Detection and identification of the enemy at maximum possible distances from the friendly main body, in order to prevent engagement of the main body under adverse circumstances---unwarned, poorly deployed, not poised to fight.
- * Firing fast first in a tank battle, especially at antiarmour capable targets. In a tank duel, accuracy is indeed important -- it's just that firing first is more important.
- * Control and distribution of antitank fires in order to kill targets rapidly, yet save enough ammunition to engage the next echelon.
- * Battlefield movement only along covered avenues--making maximum use of terrain in order to avoid or evade enemy long range observations and fires.
- * Suppressive fires delivered from overwatching positions in order to reduce the chance that manoeuvring forces can be seen and engaged by the enemy.
- * Flight of Army combat aircraft in forward battle areas at nap-of-the-earth, or as close to the ground as navigation aids and pilot training will enable, in order to survive and carry out the mission. Scout and attack helicopters must live in the ground battle environment.
- * Suppressive fires against enemy air defense systems, especially radar directed systems, in order to permit scout and attack helicopters to survive and perform more effectively.
- * Attack and counterattack on reverse slopes in order to protect attacking forces from enemy long range observation and fire.

- * Operating in darkness or other conditions of reduced visibility in order to reduce range and accuracy of enemy observation and fire.
- * Precision, discipline, speed and security in the directing and reporting of the battle in order to win the battle quickly, unimpeded by enemy counter-measures.
- * Finally, adequacy of stowed loads of ammunition and fuel; speed, responsiveness and security of resupply systems in order to reduce the frequency of resupply, yet insuring prompt resupply when needed.

THE OCTOBER WAR: LESSONS LEARNED

Captain R.K. Sashaw

The battles that occurred during the most recent Arab-Israeli conflict (the Yom Kippur War) proved to be a massive testing ground for the theories of armoured warfare, equipment and tactics. This war saw the clashing of large forces and the introduction of many modern, untested combat systems and tactics.

Many military lessons of the war are applicable to the NATO Defence of Europe and the Canadian Forces. Many lessons were, in reality, old ones forgotten and are of interest to Canada.

The war was fought on two fronts: the Syrian and Egyptian. Syria outnumbered Israel by approximately 10 to 1. The Arabs attacked after an intense artillery preparation and advanced along two axes. The Syrian armour advanced quickly and bypassed Israeli strong points.

The Israeli plan was to stop the Syrian attack, stabilize the sector and then counter-attack. On 14 Oct the Syrians were stopped along the front and the Israeli counter-attacked on the 16th. By the 17th Arab forces had been pushed back beyond the frontier. In four days the Arabs lost 900 out of approximately 1200 tanks; of these, one-third were repairable by the Israeli. On 18 Oct the Israeli forces began to exploit with orders to advance slowly and cautiously, while causing maximum enemy losses. On the 19th Damascus came under Israeli fire, and the Israeli parachute brigade retook Mount Hermon. Israeli casualties during this period were heavy.

The Israeli Air Force devoted most of its time to strategic bombing, so that by the 20th, the Syrians were having resupply problems and had to import POL from Iraq. Most IDF losses were due to Soviet RPG7s, which are easy to use, accurate and efficient with a range of 500 - 700 m.

Along the Sinai, Israeli forces were deployed along the Bar-Lev line and were again heavily outnumbered. Following Soviet doctrine the Egyptians attacked after a heavy artillery bombardment. Under cover of artillery, missiles and air support, they launched their bridges across the canal. Infantry teams crossed with the tasks of destroying Israeli artillery dug in behind the Bar-Lev line and forming an umbrella of missiles to defeat the expected Israeli air and tank assaults. Immediately after crossing, tank units fanned out and bypassed IDF strongholds. After penetrating approximately 10 miles, the tanks stopped to replenish and remain under the air canopy of the Canal missile sites. They found defensive positions and never attempted a deep penetration. Commandos infiltrated, but caused little damage. It is believed that the Egyptians stopped short because they believed they had gained enough ground to give a strong bargaining position and were concerned about being defeated by venturing too far from their home bases.

To counter this, the IDF withdrew their strong points and reorganized a new defensive line west of the Sinai passes. They also infiltrated units to attack Egyptian lines of communication and had some success. The Israeli then counter-attacked. It was aimed at the junction of the Egyptian armies. Initially, tank losses were heavy but a bridgehead was established on the west bank at El Alamein and the enemies' ground-to-air missile system was disrupted. A reconnaissance in force was followed by two armoured divisions which widened the gap and started rafting tanks across. Soon each division had a bridge and about 300 tanks across the Canal. The IDF used SAM batteries to protect these bridges. The forces across the Canal broke out heading North and South. Enemy counter attacks were uncoordinated and easily defeated. Within five days of fighting, the IDF had destroyed the Egyptian air defense system and with the regained air superiority, they easily gained their objectives with the truce becoming firm on 24 Oct.

LESSONS TO BE DRAWN

- a. Anti-Tank Combat. It has been reported that almost 90 percent of Israeli tank losses were

due to ground anti-tank systems, while most Arab losses were destroyed by tank fire. The use of anti-tank weapons and ATGMs proved so good that the Israeli tank forces were unable to move without infantry support. Obviously in certain conditions, the defensive power of ATGMs is close to being decisive. From this it can be seen that in the defence infantry should be supplied with a sufficient number of anti-tank weapons to allow main tank forces to remain in reserve; to act in counter attack and counter penetration roles. At present, the number of anti-tank weapons in our infantry battalion is only a token effort to give some defensive capability. The replacement of 106 RRs and SS11B ATGMs with TOW will help the unbalance, but there is also a requirement to give the companies and platoons a system with more range, especially in Europe, where the superior enemy numbers means that combat teams must engage at maximum ranges. We are lacking, in numbers, these weapons at battalion level; and the companies, although adequately armed with M72s, do not have the capability to engage targets in the 500 - 1000 metre range that they require.

- b. Ground to Air Defense. The Israeli Air Force was unable to achieve air superiority because of the effective Arab ground-air defences. Air superiority was gained only after SAM sites were destroyed by ground forces. These missiles proved to be highly effective and evasive tactics were almost useless. This was shown when the Israeli Air Force could not stop the Egyptians from crossing the Canal or building-up the bridgehead. Canada faces an enemy with air superiority, but we have no anti-aircraft capability. We are about to receive a modest number of hand-held, short range BLOWPIPE missiles. These are designed to be used similar to the American REDEYE, where special teams are deployed at unit level. This is suitable for infantry and where the enemy aircraft are attacking the unit so supplied. But there is also a requirement for a formation unit, to employ SAMs (similar to HAWK or CHAPARRAL) and there is also a requirement for a formation unit for armoured units to have an organic anti-aircraft capability (such as FALCON or VULCAN). At present, the .50 HMG mounts on APCs and tanks are not capable of engaging aircraft,

since they lack the protection and solid platform required for accurate fire.

- c. Tank/Infantry Cooperation. The proliferation of anti-tank weapons and lack of air superiority has shown a definite need for assaulting tanks to be supported by infantry. Israeli tank commanders could literally be heard screaming for infantry to destroy Arab anti-tank weapons. The tank assaults also showed a need for an infantry vehicle capable of allowing the infantry to manoeuvre with the tanks and with the same protection. There is a requirement for the infantry to be able to fight from their vehicles, however, to attempt to always fight from the vehicle puts the vehicle in the same situation as tanks, and most assaults were conducted dismounted, albeit, with smaller sections (because of the machine guns supporting from the vehicles and since the dismounted infantry carried automatic weapons). For the assault, it would appear that the battle group/combat team concept has proved itself once again to be best, though size and composition can not be agreed upon. At present, our infantry although more mobile than our tanks, cannot accompany tanks under fire due to their limited protection. They also do not have the firepower that APCs in every other country have. We must consider up-arming our APCs and giving them the protection required to accompany tanks. As a second priority, they should have the capability of allowing the infantry to fight from them. This is useful in mobile operations on the mechanized field.
- d. Tanks. Once again the CENTURION tank appears to have proven itself the best MBT on the field (granted in its heavily modified Israeli form). During the Six Day War in 1967 it proved highly effective with its low vulnerability to Soviet shell fire, and with its L7 105mm gun; however, the Centurion's automotive performance was extremely poor, as they were slow, had short range, were difficult to repair and were hard to manoeuvre. They were rebuilt with diesel engines, semi-automatic transmissions, and new steering mechanisms and brakes. In addition, tank crews trained and stayed together and spent much training time on gunnery and range estimation. This war also showed a need for tanks

to have modifications made to their frontal armour to defeat HEAT warheads. At present Canada is still using outdated vehicles with their inherent logistics problems. At present, rumours abound on new tanks, the "retro-fit", etc but for now only rebuilt tanks are coming into the system, with a lead time of nearly two years before any significant changes can take place. Our present system of man-for-man rotation prohibits keeping crews together but we can demand that new "tankers" be trained before arrival. This ensures that our gunnery training and ammunition is not wasted in qualifying new crews, but is used to refresh trained personnel.

- e. Mobility. The Israeli policy demands a high mobility. Supporting weapons are all mounted on APCs to ensure their mobility. Mortars, anti-aircraft guns and anti-tank guns all have mobility. At present, our infantry mortars are carried in APCs but must be removed to function. This slows the reaction time of the weapon and in a highly mobile operation almost prohibits using the system effectively.

CONCLUSION

The October War was clearly a triumph of armour, although the Israeli Defence Forces paid dearly for its success in terms of destroyed equipment and lost personnel. It emphasized a fact of armoured warfare - personnel cheap but materially expensive. From this the Canadian Armed Forces can draw several conclusions. They are:

- a. The requirement for infantry to have a greater number of anti-tank weapons with increased range;
- b. The need for an effective air defense system at formation and unit level;
- c. The need for increased protection of mounted infantry and more firepower for them;
- d. The need for a more modern Main Battle Tank;
- e. Training of armoured personnel before they join tank units; and
- f. The tank/infantry team is still the most viable organization that is capable of working on the modern battlefield especially in this day of mechanized formations and the threat of nuclear and chemical weapons.

All of these requirements cost money but Canada has confirmed our commitment to NATO and inherent in this is the need for highly mobile, armoured forces. We cannot depend on our allies to give us the air or armoured protection we require; they will want to protect their own forces first.

THE ANTI-ARMOUR HELICOPTER

Captain D.L. Craig

Development of the anti-armour helicopter has revolutionized the third dimension of ground warfare; that of close air support. The effectiveness of these helicopter systems has been established both in trials and actual combat situations. The same anti-armour helicopter has been the brunt of a lot of publicity. Regarded by some as the replacement for the MBT in the land battle, it is seen by others as an expensive and vulnerable piece of equipment of limited use in the modern arenas of war. Perhaps the answer is found somewhere in between these two views. The purpose of this paper is to briefly outline some of the principles of employment of anti-armour helicopters within 4 CMBG. For simplicity, this paper will be based on the facts and figures pertaining to the Huey TOW Cobra as it appears to be the most likely system to be employed in 4 CMBG.

Anti-armour helicopters have a number of advantages which make their employment on the modern battlefield almost a necessity. The most notable of these are their speed and mobility, firepower, and flexibility. The helicopter has a relatively high rate of speed and very rapid response time providing great overall mobility. The helicopter is undoubtedly greatly superior to the tank, and indeed all other ground vehicles, in mobility, as it is unaffected by most terrain features. On the average, it is capable of reaching engagement positions in a fraction of the time required by ground vehicles. Firepower is another great asset to be considered in the employment of the A/armd helicopter. The TOW Cobra, for example, can be configured with three different chin-turret weapons systems and two different wing systems. These weapons include the 7.62 minigun, 40 MM grenade launcher, 20 MM cannon, 2.75 inch rockets, and the TOW pod. The typical TOW Cobra configuration includes the XM-28 chin turret (4000 rds of 7.62 with minigun and 300 rds of 40 MM with the XM-129 grenade launcher) and two TOW pods (8 rds). The various weapons and ammunition loads constitute a considerable inventory and make

Cobra a weapons platform to be seriously reckoned with. The TOW, for example, will kill tanks out to 4000 metres, while the 20 MM will defeat APC's out to 2000 metres range. The miniguns optimum range is 1000 metres. Coupled with this excellent firepower is the ability of the A/armd helicopter to engage armour effectively from stand-off ranges.

One must also consider the weapons to be used against the helicopters. The ZSU 23-4 (23 MM) kill factor of .02 and an optimum range of only 1200 metres. The 12.7 HMG, turret mounted on most Warsaw Pack MBTs, is most effective at ranges under 1000 metres. The ZSU 57/2 (57 MM) has a range of 4000 metres but is an unlikely adversary of A/armd helicopters, inasmuch as it is primarily deployed in rear areas. The A/armd helicopters in use today have the capability of standing off beyond their adversary's maximum range. Another related factor is the relatively small target presented by the head-on Cobra in firing positions; it is only about one metre wide.

The high speed, coupled with the excellent firepower and good communications, ensures great flexibility. A/armd helicopters can quickly shift tasks as well as provide a variety of support roles. These will be discussed later.

As with every good piece of equipment, however there are limitations which restrict helicopter's usefulness to varying degrees. The first to be considered is the human factor. Crew fatigue is a serious problem which must be overcome if the capability of the machine is to be fully utilized. Spare crews would help to overcome this problem. Weather is one of the main limiting factors when planning air operations. Precipitation and fog obviously limit flying time but high temperatures severely restrict the lift capability. Unless the planes are well concealed in positions, the glint of the rotors and the bubble will often give away their positions. In close proximity, the noise of the rotors will alert ground troops of their presence but often not their exact positions. Once located, however, the A/armd helicopter is very vulnerable to concentrated small arms fire. This is not really as serious as it sounds, for at stand-off ranges it is unlikely that ground troops would be deployed 2500 metres forward of their armour. In some cases one must consider this vulnerability as just one of the hazards of war.

To save a long and involved argument, it is sufficient to say that on balance the A/armd helicopter is an effective weapons system that, when properly employed, would fulfill a very useful role; despite the limitations.

With their great flexibility the A/armd helicopter has a number of roles in support of the Brigade. Direct fire support is one of the more important roles. In the offensive, close fire support could be provided to the reconnaissance elements, battle groups or other elements. Held centrally they can form a ready reserve to counter surprise armour threats until heavier weapons can be re-deployed. In withdrawal and defensive operations the anti-armour potential of the helicopter can best be appreciated. As a part of the anti-tank defense plan, the A/armd helicopter can be shifted quickly to meet the heaviest threat and rapidly complement any local anti-tank defense. The A/armd helicopter can also provide limited reconnaissance information although the aircraft lacks the agility of the LOH. Lesser roles include convoy escort and rear area security.

With these roles in mind, the number required in the Brigade should be established. Combat experience in Vietnam lacks effective application to the situation faced by 4 CMBG in Europe. A joint American, German and Canadian Trial held in 1972 appears to have produced some valid conclusions. The conclusion which most applies here designates the most effective A/armd helicopter team size for the European environment. This team includes two LOHs to locate targets and three A/armd helicopters to engage enemy armour. It was determined, as a result of the trials, that such a configuration best suited the requirement to combat the threat in Central Europe. Having accepted this mix, the Canadian experts realistically assessed the Brigade requirements. Their recommendation was that the addition of four LOHs and six A/armd helicopters to the present Tactical Helicopter Squadron would provide adequate support to 4 CMBG.

One could literally write reams on the command and control aspect related to the use of A/armd helicopters within 4 CMBG. The artillery example, of command and control, is a well proven system which would be equally well applied to the A/armd helicopter arm. As an effective weapons support system it is essential that overall command be exercised only from the highest levels. With their rapid response time, allocation of support could follow the standard artillery terms such as "in support", "in direct support" and "at priority call". If properly co-ordinated, the rapid deployment within these allocations of A/armd helicopters can result in the most effective use of their capabilities. Control, including administration and maintenance, should be exercised primarily by the Tactical Helicopter Squadron Commander. However, once allocated by the Commander, the receiving units would have the teams on call and exercise the necessary control required to accomplish their assigned missions. It must be emphasized, however, that the responsibility for their administration and maintenance must remain with the Tactical Helicopter Squadron.

Given the basic characteristics, roles, command and control the following principles apply to the employment of A/armd helicopters in 4 CMBG:

- a. Cooperation with all other arms including both land and air elements.
- b. Flexibility must be maintained to ensure rapid deployment where and when required to complement existing anti-tank defences.
- c. Concentration of forces or resources to ensure maximum effort is applied wherever and whenever necessary.
- d. Economy of force to ensure the resources aren't wasted on secondary tasks but held for only major roles.
- e. Command and control must be similar to that of the artillery to ensure centralized control and co-ordination.
- f. Administration must remain with the Tactical Helicopter Squadron.

In conclusion it must again be emphasized that the A/armd helicopter is not a replacement for the Main Battle Tank but rather a weapon to complement the anti-tank defense already present within the Brigade.

THE SOVIET SOLDIER

Captain T.J. Tanguay

AIM

The aim of this paper is to familiarize the reader with the Soviet soldier. It will also enable the reader to understand and realize that the Soviet soldier is neither a mystery nor a giant. The professional military man is continually interested and concerned about knowing absolutely everything regarding the capabilities of equipment belonging to possible future enemy forces. In the same light, he must know and understand the capabilities of the men who will operate these tools of destruction against him. Only then, during a confrontation, can he predict the enemies' probable actions and reactions.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important considerations of the Soviet ground forces is the soldier. Before this paper looks into the soldier's training and military life we must know a little about the Soviet Forces in general. This will help us understand how he fits into the overall picture.

The Soviet Armed Forces are prepared to start hostilities with conventional forces or with a massive nuclear strike. They are also prepared to wage chemical and biological warfare if the situation so warrants. The Soviet soldier is trained along this complete spectrum.

The Soviet Ground Forces consist of approximately two million men. This does not include approximately a quarter of a million men in the para military, security, and border troops. There are about 160 Ground Force divisions of which 50 are tank, seven are airborne and the remainder are motor rifle. Of the total number of divisions approximately 100 could be fully operational within zero to seven days.

Besides the main Soviet Ground Force there are about six and a half million reservists between the ages of 22 and 35. These reservists are required to train one month out of every year. However, this regulation has not been strictly enforced within the Soviet Union.

The Soviet soldier is required to serve his compulsory term in one of five different countries: East Germany which has 20 Soviet divisions; Poland which has two Soviet divisions; Hungary which has four Soviet divisions; Czechoslovakia which has five Soviet divisions; and in his own country, the U.S.S.R., which contains the remainder of the Soviet Ground Forces.

DISCUSSION

General. Of the total inhabitants in the U.S.S.R. sixty percent are Russian. The remaining forty percent of the population are made up of mainly Germans, Finns, Tartars, and Eskimos. When speaking of qualities and characteristics this paper will deal with the majority.

The Russian inhabitant is generally stubborn and hardy, and very good at improvisation. With the increase in educational standards and with proper training he makes an adequate technician. His pride and love of country sees no limits. Because of political indoctrination and up-bringing he believes that every modern and technical commodity was invented in his country. A century of study has revealed that the Russian natives'

moods vary drastically. He may vary from simplicity to cunning, gentleness to cruelty, and optimism to suicidal despair. Because of the two great wars and the Russian Revolution, he has become accustomed to hardship and his administrative needs are very basic.

Character. As in Canada, the character of the Soviet soldier depends to a great extent on his mother tongue, his place of origin within the country, and his cultural background. The task of describing the character of the Soviet soldier is made even more difficult because the U.S.S.R. has 60 different languages with their associated characteristics and cultures.

Morale. The basic idea of Soviet morale is not far removed from Western doctrine, although it deals with morale in much broader terms. Western doctrine states that soldiers respond best to leadership which appeals to pride in themselves and their units. The Soviet idea goes beyond this in much broader terms. The Soviet policy of mass offensive action suits the Soviet soldier. Because the Soviet Union has not been at war since 1945, it is very difficult to predict the reaction of her soldiers in a future modern war. Because of the soldiers intense training and political brain-washing he would probably respond very well when operations are going as planned and rehearsed. The Soviet soldier would show less flexibility and initiative when confronted with the unexpected or a reversal of what was planned. This would also apply if he was required to fight beyond the borders of his country.

Terms of Service. In 1972 the Soviet Ground Forces re-introduced the rank of Ensign. This rank, which dates back prior to the Revolution, will give the extended serviceman some identification. Until recently, the Soviet Forces consisted of Regular Officers and conscripted soldiers.

The Soviet Union has no provision to voluntary enlistment with the exception of bandsmen. Upon completion of his compulsory term of service, a conscript may enter the forces on a full time basis as a volunteer. The conscript must serve two years in the Soviet army or three years in the Navy.

The Soviet Constitution states: "Universal military service is a law, military service in the ranks of the U.S.S.R. Armed Forces is the honorable obligation of all male citizens". In addition, the law also states that service by women is obligatory for those with medical or other specialized training and who are between the ages of 19 and 40. The law also allows for those with a higher education to serve for only one year, provided they are capable of passing the Reserve Officer examination within that period.

Conscription and Training. Introductory training can begin on a voluntary basis between the ages of 9 and 14. Upon reaching the age of 15 the Soviet male must attend compulsory military training, which will be given by ex-Armed Forces Officers. This training is not allowed to interfere with their schooling or production output if they are working. The training does not only include basic field tactics but enables the young Soviet citizen to obtain a specialty which will benefit the forces, such as transport driver, radio operator, or parachutist.

Conscription is compulsory once a male reaches 18 years of age. By age 20 he should have completed his term of service. The Government feels that he is now better prepared to continue his education, find a job, and arrange his personal life. Conscription of citizens takes place twice a year at equal intervals: May to June and November to December. This system has shown two favourable points; it maintains the troops' combat readiness at the required level and it allows for agricultural harvesting considerations. Once conscripted they are shipped to a reception centre for a short period and then transferred to the units with which they will serve. The unit is responsible to give the basic 12 week recruit course. On completion of this course, the recruit becomes a full-fledged soldier.

Every Soviet soldier will specialize in at least one trade. This does not prevent him from working towards a second associated trade. On a yearly basis he is required to re-qualify on his primary trade. If he fails this yearly re-examination he will lose his qualification. One interesting point is that, if he loses his qualification or is sent on course he does not receive trades pay during that period.

Because of his pre-conscription training, every soldier already possesses a certain level of military knowledge. This will allow him to spend more time on field tactical exercises. Throughout his training he is taught blind obedience. The Soviet military continually emphasize however, that the individual soldier has initiative. One may ask how blind obedience and initiative can work hand in hand. IMPOSSIBLE. In addition, because of a reduction in the Forces' budget and wear on existing equipment, the Soviet soldier on many occasions is not given realistic training and is subject to training simulators. No doubt, this also reduces the overall effectiveness of the individual soldier.

Conditions of Service. The Soviet conscripts pay is very low and cannot be considered as an incentive builder. He receives 3 roubles a month, which is approximately \$2.80. In the Soviet Union a bottle of beer is worth 0.25 roubles. Although he is granted many privileges, his pay is worthless. A conscript is not entitled to leave, however, for political or military achievements he may be granted 10 days leave and up to 10 days travelling time. If he remains in the service and becomes an Ensign he would be entitled to 45 days leave a year and up to 15 days travelling time. A minimum of 30 days must be taken at once. Punishments under the Code of Service Discipline are very similar to our own. However, awards for deeds well done would not completely impress the Western soldier, but are considered incentive enough to motivate the Soviet conscript. Examples are: public citation, leave, a personal photograph taken before the unfurled unit flag, or an inscription in the unit book of honour.

CONCLUSION

To most of the Western military the Soviet soldier remains an individual who is highly trained and mysterious. Mysterious only because we have not been trained to know or understand him; we have only been trained to know and understand his equipment. There is no doubt as to his reaction when called upon to fight for his Motherland but one would doubt his effectiveness and perseverance when on foreign soil. As mentioned, he is trained more as a robot than as an individual fighter. The disruption of his effectiveness can be obtained in two ways; the removal of his leader or a reversal of the rehearsed and expected. The Soviet soldier is well led, well trained and conditioned mentally and physically; but is neither a mystery nor a giant.

ORIENTEERING

Captain W.J. Fulton

It was shortly before noon as the bus bounced along headed for the Langenhard training area. The occupants of the bus could definitely be called a happy bunch. The atmosphere was indeed so hilarious that Dan Kelly was moved to comment that the rain would undoubtedly start any second. The bus shortly came to a stop in front of a gasthof near the Langenhard training area. The occupants hadn't known where they were going. It started to rain. A good omen for the first annual B Squadron Orienteering Competition.

Suddenly, a loudhailer booms and the first victim is called forward: "TIBBO". A whistle sounds and the first runner strikes out for the map area, a hundred yards away. He quickly copies the control points onto his own map and figures out the first bearing. A whistle sounds and Ken McLeish has sped from the barn heading for the maps. As Tibbo drops his compass and loses his pencil, he wonders if a whole minute has elapsed since he left.

We now have Bob MacPherson, Jacques Chenevert and Al Murdoch who have finished marking their maps and are about to start for "Control One". As if on cue all three runners start running in different directions.

And then we see the "follower-syndrome" appear. Wayne Perry and Bob McDonnell are at the map table and Perry fleetly strikes off in the wrong direction. After consulting his map and compass, Mac glances nervously in the correct direction, starts running towards it, makes it 50 metres and veers off hard left in the same direction as Perry. The temptation was too strong for him.

Meanwhile at "Control Four", Ron Scott reports that he has seen fleet-of-foot Brian Schiratti pass within 25 metres of his control four times. Unfortunately he was travelling in different directions each time.

Back at the finish line, the first runner appears. Ray Mueller wheezes across the finish line in 1 hour, 13 minutes and 50 seconds. Definitely a good time.

When most of the runners have finished, the search party has returned with the lost lambs and the lame have been carried home, the winner is Gaetan Landry. He has beaten Ray Mueller, who had been getting more and more confident as the results were posted, by a scant 45 seconds. We convene at the gasthof for well earned refreshments and the winner is presented with a check for DM 50. The troop earning the lowest overall time is First Troop who receive the annual trophy.

But what have we accomplished with all this thrashing about in the woods? Orienteering is now recognized as a valuable method of military training. It combines the practical use of maps, physical fitness and determination, and mental alertness and decisiveness. The object of orienteering is to navigate through a series of checkpoints as quickly as possible. With only a map and a compass, competitors make their way from control point to control point, using all their stamina and map reading skills to beat their rivals.

In the Armed Forces today, there is a definite weakness in the training of junior leaders to navigate. Normally a Junior NCO does not get the chance to read a map until he reaches the point in his career where he

becomes a crew commander. Unfortunately, it is too late, at this time, to start instruction in map reading. The man is now in a position of leadership and he is expected to perform at a high standard. No allowance is made for the fact that the man has received virtually no formal training, and he is assessed on his ability notwithstanding. As well as the lack of navigation training, the junior leaders are seldom placed in a position to make decisions, no matter how insignificant. As a result they are once again deprived of valuable training and experience.

Orienteering, the ideal military sport, combines leadership, navigation skills and physical fitness in such a way as to help the man overcome these deficiencies. He is faced with the problem of choosing the best route to follow and he must very quickly make the decision. He must take into consideration the height of the hills he may cross, the density of the woods, the "going" of marshes, the problem of obstacles such as lakes or rivers, his ability at running and last of all his own ability at using a compass properly. He must now decide whether to take the long easy route or the short tough route. Judging distances, a necessary, but seldom practised skill in the Armoured Corps, is stressed heavily in Orienteering Competitions. By starting at the basics of step counting, an orienteer quickly learns to relate features on the ground to exact distances. This is an asset when we move to gun camp. The mind is sharpened by the fact that the orienteer must "collect features". That is, in order to save time, he must quickly memorize features from his map, put his map away and mentally check each feature off as he passes them on the ground. This once again is necessary for the crew commander in the tactical situation as he is much too busy to keep his nose to the map at all times. Last of all, the orienteer, because of the nature of the competition, quickly gets in excellent physical condition.

How can orienteering be initiated in the present training system? Firstly, it should be introduced during recruit training when physical fitness is strongly stressed. It should be initiated at unit level for pay levels 3, 4 and 5 on a continuing basis. Several competitions could be held every year and because of the ease of organizing a competition, it would only take one half day per competition. If it were run on a monthly basis, that would only be six training days per year which is not excessive. Opportunities should be taken to allow soldiers to compete in the many tournaments held around Europe. This would be good adventure training and is also good public relations for the Armed Forces.

Orienteering is an inexpensive, enjoyable and valuable form of training that must be pushed at unit level in order to get the Canadian Forces to recognize its value. With the many types of orienteering; line orienteering, relay orienteering, route orienteering and night orienteering, combined with the fact that the location changes each time, there is little scope for boredom. There is little doubt that this form of competition is excellent for giving the individual soldier confidence in his ability to read a map as well as for producing mental alertness, decisiveness and a physically fit soldier.

THE MASTER CORPORAL - WHERE ARE WE?

Lieutenant T.J.I. Burnie, CD

BACKGROUND

"The year that was 66." This quote raises the emotional level of those who served during that point in contemporary Canadian military history. It was during that time that the current Canadian Forces configuration was at its infancy. Among the many subjects that remain as a topic of conversation was the decision to create the "instant" corporal. The ramifications are still felt today.

The apparent desire was to bring the forces pay scale into line with the Public Service of Canada. Treasury Board would not accept the proposal that Privates should have a large increase in pay relative to their responsibilities, in particular tradesmen. Therefore, the creation of the principle that the Corporal rank equals trade skill as well, and not a pure command function was established. This single act became the catalyst for eroding our traditional and proven rank structure system. Hence, we were faced with the problem of the command function corporal versus the corporal tradesman and how to differentiate.

Within the Brigade the reaction was, to say the least, traumatic. At the outset, a concerted effort was made to distinguish the "old" corporal from the "instant" corporal in some units. Examples of that effort were the denial of the Corporals Mess to "instant" corporals and in addition, the creating of embellishments to existing rank badges for the "old" corporal.

Within the space of one year it became readily apparent, particularly in the land element, that provision must be made to identify the command corporal from the worker corporal. As a result, the term Senior Corporal was introduced. He was appointed by the Commanding Officer

from within a unit entitlement percentage, paid a remuneration of ten dollars monthly (before deductions) and was given a crown to wear on his chevrons. A modified development of this improvement was incorporated approximately two years later in 1970 with a change of rank title to the current term of Master Corporal.

Albeit this revised rank structure had its benefits, however the appointment of Master Corporal became meaningless in some units. Individuals were appointed at the whim of Commanding Officers. Other units however, took the appointment seriously but the man suffered temporary set back if per chance he was posted. This was very pronounced in the Combat Arms where the man lost his appointment and was then required to go through the inevitable process of again proving his potential to a new Commanding Officer and new peer group. This fault was recognized and we have further developed to our current system of appointment and remuneration.

TODAY

Today the Master Corporal in a combat arms unit is expected to perform a wide variety of tasks ranging from the private level to the warrant officer level; and in some cases to the junior officer level. All too often the apparent versatility of the Master Corporal is misinterpreted. He tends to be neither fish nor fowl. One day he is expected to command a tank, organize a section of men, supervise a repair team or act as second in command of a sub-unit. The next day he may be required to act as a liaison officer on behalf of his unit while on the third day he may be on the working end of a broom. There does not appear to be a clear cut place in the command structure for the Master Corporal when compared to the command relationship of the pre "66" Corporal.

Today's Master Corporals are appointed and not granted substantive rank. Although they have the authority and power of command over other Corporals, QR & O Vol II does not officially recognize Master Corporals; however, it does acknowledge their appointment and authority in a devious manner. In addition, the worker Corporal enjoys the same entitlements as the Master Corporal in the election of trial by court martial. This situation is not conducive to command. It has been about seven years since the Master Corporal rank was introduced; it is time that this fact of life be recognized.

The current system of appointment from the Branch merit list tends to create an over abundance of Master Corporals in some units while leaving a noticeable shortfall in others. The intent is to allow the inequalities

to level off over a prolonged period, however the inequalities are very pronounced at this rank level. This flaw in the system adds fuel to the indecision with regard to the terms of responsibility to be given the Master Corporal in different units.

One of the proven facts of military life is that leaders must be provided with a separate area for rest and relaxation from that of their subordinates. This fact was recognized prior to "66" in that Corporals were provided with a separate mess. These messes were successful and flourishing establishments Forces wide. In today's environment, it can be difficult for the junior supervisor to overcome the transition from worker to leader. The inclination is to become "one of the boys" resulting in the loss of effective authority when the occasion demands. This shortcoming in our contemporary system should be overcome.

The Master Corporal is the first supervisory level. Prior to his appointment he is taught, via the medium of the combat leader or junior leader course, that he is a supervisor and does just that. This approach is perhaps too dogmatic as the newly appointed Master Corporal soon learns that he must become a worker/supervisor (push the broom and direct). This perhaps is too far on the other side of the scale therefore the balance must be struck.

There is little wonder that the appointment of Master Corporal can indeed be frustrating however, the position in life of the Master Corporal must be clearly established. He must be given the tools necessary to re-establish the prestige and authority of the first level supervisor. Some advances have recently been made or are in the process of taking place. These advances are:

- a. establishment of Master Corporal positional quotas by trade for individual units;
- b. the posting of Master Corporals from unit to unit to fill established positions;
- c. the introduction of a revised PER system that will create a separate assessment format for Master Corporals and up; and
- d. last but not least, recognition in the yellow pages (CFSO's).

Hopefully, the circle will close and the dilemma of the Master Corporal will be solved so that the first level supervisor can again be a meaningful and prestigious position.

THE REBUILT CENTURION

Captain W.J. Brewer

For most members of the RCD, the 6th of September 1974 meant another day of hurried preparation for the oncoming fall exercise period. But for Fourth Troop A Squadron and Second Troop B Squadron the day had other things in store. Two days earlier word had been received that the first two Centurion tanks had arrived in Lahr from the Dutch Rebuild line and the tanks had been prepared for handover to the Regiment. Crews from each troop gathered at the Airfield railhead and after a brief handover ceremony between the Staff Officer Maintenance and Commanding Officer RCD, the two crews mounted their newly acquired tanks and headed back to unit lines. The first two of 24 rebuilt Centurions were on their way to the Regiment.

The rebuilt tanks were a direct result of a decision that had been made in 1973. At that time, the decision was made to extend the life of the Centurion to the end of 1976 and a study indicated that 24 tanks within CFE would have to be rebuilt to provide enough tank mileage to extend to that date. (This was based on a tank rebuild mileage of 3000 miles.) Although consideration was given to rebuilding the tanks with a "Retrofit" package, it was finally decided to rebuild the tanks incorporating only a few minor modifications. As spare parts support for the Centurion fleet was already a serious problem prior to the decision to rebuild the tank, contracts were let to have additional major assemblies and minor components rebuilt to provide the necessary spares support to the end of 1976. All contracts are being handled by the RNLA 574 Tank Werkplatz in Amersfoort, Holland. As a point of interest, of the 24 tanks being rebuilt, 17 were taken from storage in Munchen Gladbach and 7 were provided from CFB Lahr.

The last of the rebuilt tanks arrived in Lahr on 15 Jan 75 and will be issued to the Regiment by the end of the first week in February.

From the moment that the first rebuilt tanks arrived in unit lines (after only a short drive from Base Supply) it became evident that they were certainly not going to be the fault-free machine that many people had envisaged they would be. However, most of the faults were of a minor nature and were corrected prior to commencement of the fall exercise period. In fact, a study of the problems which have occurred to date clearly indicates that the rebuilt tanks have performed well above the standard of the tanks in use prior to the rebuild program.

The areas in which most faults have occurred can be classified under the headings of Mechanical, Weapons, and Spare Parts. To simplify the discussion, each will be considered separately.

Mechanical. Most faults which have occurred from the mechanical viewpoint relate to the failure of major assemblies such as main engines and gearboxes. In particular, three rebuilt engines have failed since the start of the rebuild program; however, it appears that these failures can only be attributed to the intensive training periods at Hohenfels and Reforger.

Weapons. In the opinion of the unit Weapon Techs, the quality of the rebuilt gunnery systems has been good. Minor adjustments have been made but on a comparative basis, the Dutch have done a much better job on the gunnery side than was ever produced on rebuilds at 202 Wksp Depot Montreal and the British Forces at Wetter.

Spare Parts. Several minor problems have arisen due to a shortage of certain spare parts for the rebuild program. The rebuild contract stipulates that certain parts required for the program will be provided by Canada and in a few instances parts have just not been available. It should be added that even though the Dutch are not required to provide all parts for the program, they have done their best to provide parts required when shortages have occurred.

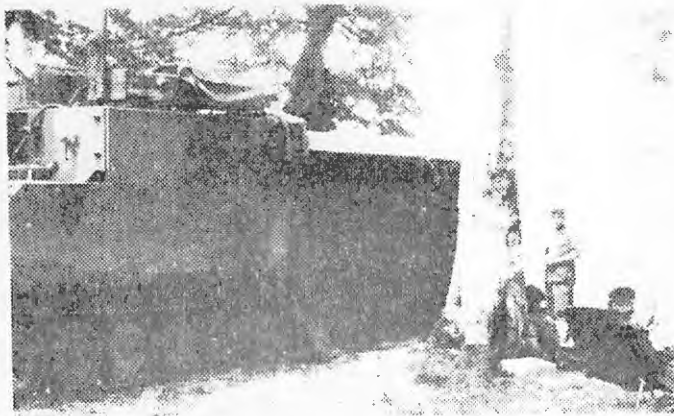
In terminating this discussion, it should be pointed out that the Dutch have done a good job rebuilding our tanks when one considers the deplorable state that our tanks from Munchen Gladbach were in when they arrived for rebuild. In a program of this size, problems have to be expected at the outset; this is supported by the fact that the rebuilt tanks have performed well since the fall exercise period.

As was previously mentioned, the tanks were rebuilt incorporating only a few additional modifications; only one of these is worth discussing in any depth. Two of the components of the 105MM gun control system (the elevation amplifier and junction control unit) have been modified so that the gun elevates automatically while traversing over the depression rails thereby minimizing damage to the gun thermal blankets. When the announcement was first made that this modification would be incorporated in the rebuild program, plans were made to modify only the 24 tanks going through the rebuild program. However as this would have meant that there would be both modified and unmodified tanks in the Regiment and an SPSS that would have to hold both modified and unmodified spares, action is being taken to modify all tanks in CFE.

The most common question that one hears being asked is, "Was the rebuild program worth it?". All things being considered, the answer has to be yes. The rebuild program has kept the Canadian Forces in the tank business and, hopefully, it will lead to something better in the future.

A few good lessons can be learned from a rebuild program of this nature; the most important of which is the value of having qualified Canadian Technical Representatives on the ground for the duration of the program. Many of the faults that have been found on the rebuilt tanks relate to poor quality control; a problem which stems from the fact that there has been only one Canadian Tech Rep on the ground. Experts from each LORE trade branch (Veh, Elec, Wpns) should be available to sort out problems which occur at the time the tank is rebuilt. The end result would be a cutting down of time required to "shake the bugs" out of the rebuilds when they arrive at the Regiment. Hopefully this is a point that will be remembered for future programs of this nature.

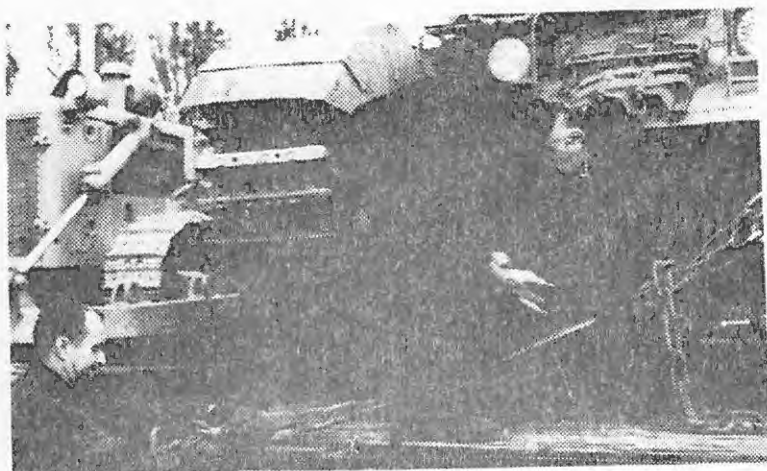
Dragoons in the Field



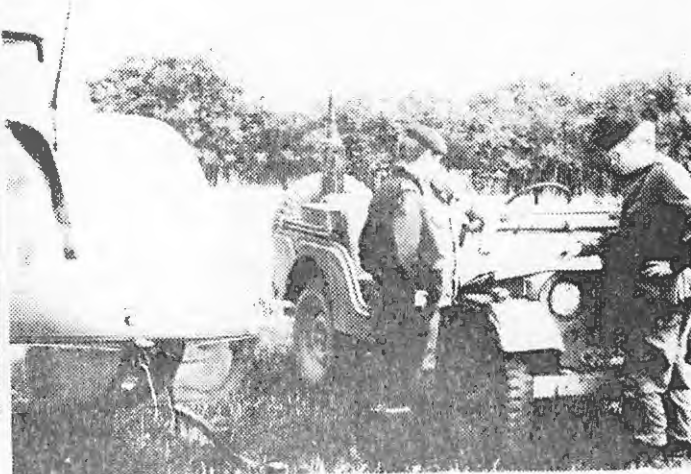
RH2 - 1000 p.m. notice.



The Brigade Commander demonstrates the proper method of dismounting.



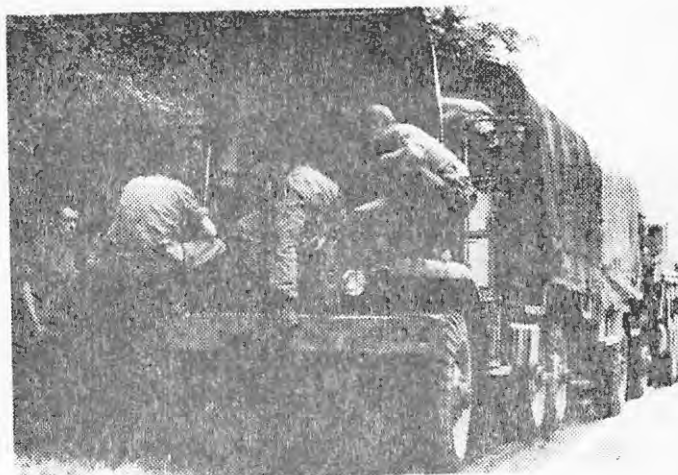
WO Smith and Cpl Gainsick being down a B Squadron tank.



Capt MacDonald and Capt Craig plan their next move with Lt Moore.



Cpl Logan and MCpl MacIntyre at work in their office.



"There's a CSU in here somewhere . . ."

A REMINISCENCE..... "REFORGER (?) 1944"

Captain D.L. Craig

"... First parade was called at 0745 hrs, when even the bulk of the huge barrack blocks could hardly be seen, and raw recruits, clumsy on parade even in daylight, stumbled into each other, heaved and jostled and surged vaguely about on the command "ON PARADE". Inspection was done by touch, the troop sergeant running a tender hand over a chin here, down a trouser crease or across the toe of a boot with all the violence which men develop in the bleak and ghastly hour if the texture of toe, chin or crease was too coarse. In a way that first parade with all its blind groping, was symbolic of the state of the Regiment, groping also to find itself and assert its individual character in strange surroundings

... training continued all the while, "as per syllabus". Drawn up weekly by the squadron leader or LO, this syllabus was a most ambitious document which contained enough subjects to qualify a field marshal. It was generally disregarded, but it looked very impressive and imposing sitting on the CO's desk ...

... There still remained the important task of developing tactical doctrines of employment of the Regiment and of training all ranks in them. As a first step, an all officers troop was organized. Formed up on the square it appeared a formidable object, with two heavy armoured cars, two Daimler scout cars, two combination motorcycles and two solo motorcycles. For a day or two this troop crept about the unit area in cautious convoy. True it got lost occasionally, but it got lost as a unit. Then, one memorable day, it attempted a simple deployment. The result was most enlightening. Within ten minutes the troop had split into eight separate sections, all lost, and all frantically searching for each other. Long after dark the last vehicle straggled in.

... In those days the men really entered into the spirit of the exercise, to the extent of opening fire with live ammunition on at least one occasion, while assault and battery in the course of taking prisoners was a common occurrence.

... EX SPARTAN ... Once across the Kemet River, the unit was used as a flank guard along the Thames in the area of Marlowe. Here, an all time record for infiltration was made by a patrol of C Squadron, which penetrated the grounds of Windsor Castle and was first spotted by the Queen herself who reported the incident to the rigid and astonished guard. The strange armoured cars were prowling about the park behind the castle.

By this time everyone in the Regiment had had enough of war, real or make believe. The C Squadron assault troop had disappeared in a gallant and hairbrained attack across the Kemet against positions which later took a battalion to crush. B Squadron was completely exhausted, having been continuously (and generally unscrupulously) employed since the start of the exercise. A Squadron's main task had degenerated into a search for the squadron leader who had disappeared somewhere around Oxford. The Adjutant, in his few lucid moments, wondered dimly how he would ever keep track of those who had been taken prisoner and were wandering, literally, "somewhere in England". All ranks were tired, dirty, irritated and bored to death.

... The few trucks that the Regiment had drawn, all relics of the desert campaign, with flopping fenders and sprung frames, were an insult to the eye of man who prided themselves on always having perfect vehicles.

... There was also wine in gallons, some of it a bell-brew that drove men mad. Fortunately, the ingrained fear of drunkenness or at least of being caught drunk, which the Regiment's iron discipline had developed, prevented all but occasional excesses.

... The Adjutant was in a quandry. His orders were to entrain at 1800 hrs. Being a conscientious officer, he wanted, with all his heart, to obey them. But how to entrain without a train. The men were not so perturbed, they curled up on the floor and slept peacefully. At 2300 hrs, a large and decrepit locomotive, manned by two Italians and an English corporal staggered into the station, wheezed once or twice and stopped.

... The train was duly loaded ... The Italian's refused to move. It seemed, after further discussion involving fervent appeals to the Virgin, that the brakeman was in distress. His trouble, it appeared, was that he had no pants, and was at that moment hiding in the lavatory in the station, waiting the arrival of his friend's sister, who each night brought him his friend's pants which he wore during the up and down trip, returning them to the friend in the morning so that he, in turn, could take the run in daytime.

The Adjutant quickly provided a pair and the train was off. All went well until the train reached Potenza. The speed increased noticeably and the Adjutant found after an investigation that two troopers had taken over from the Italians. The English corporal was only told to stop the Italians from blowing up the train but no mention was made of Canadians. The engine finally gave up at Bisigo but the great train robbery saved the day. The two enthusiastic troopers switched engines and carried on. The train finally arrived at

Altamura and the Railway Transport Officer there, was left to discover for himself that there was no crew and that it had barely enough life left in it to clear the station.

... At Altamura, the Regiment settled into the cold landscape. B Squadron built a fireplace at the end of the Officers' Mess tent, complete with a chimney nearly a yard in diameter. This was not a complete success, for more smoke poured down the chimney than up, and the officers were forced to take their morning tea lying on the floor to escape the choking clouds which hung to within three feet of the ground.

... Maj Landell, the DCO, also bent his mind to the problem of heating his tent. He devised a subterranean arrangement of cans filled with clay which really did heat the tent without filling the tent with smoke. For a few days he basked in quiet triumph, explaining to the squadrons that it was a simple question of ingenuity, of which he had an ample supply. However, when the tent burned down one night the squadrons explained that it was a simple matter of ingenuity for him to replace all of his burnt kit. This did not seem to comfort him much.

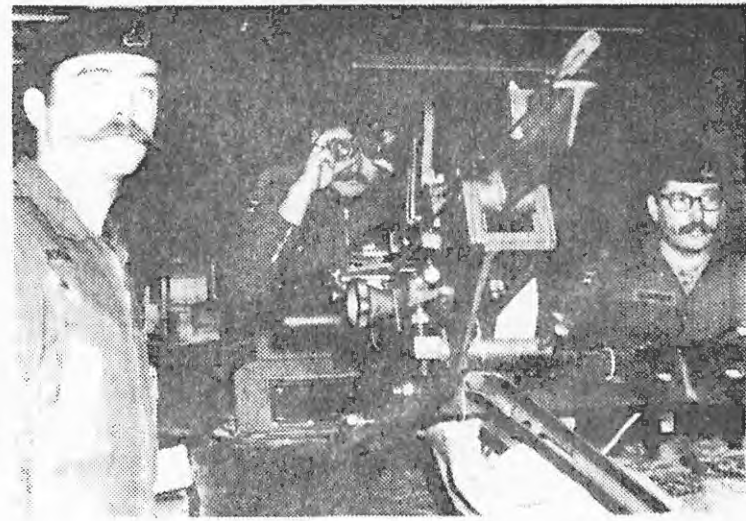
... On 19 Feb 1944, A, C and D Squadrons sent parties of company strength to occupy reserve positions in rear of 11 Cdn Inf Bde. It was a "Quiet Front", the kind which make soldiers shudder. They know the misery of its black nights, when a man has to bite pieces of wood to stop his teeth from chattering and the strain of listening and looking into the dark for hours on end until the very bushes begin to move and the ear manufactures sounds for want of hearing any. They know too, the way men come back from patrol on a "QUIET FRONT", torn up by mortar fire or with a leg blown off by a mine, and every day they watch the sad procession to the rear. Day by day, as they are chewed up in this great sausage grinder, they feel their strength and courage ebb, and they curse bitterly at the ghastly trick of language which has made their torment a "QUIET FRONT"

These excerpts were taken from "The Royal Canadian Dragoons 1939 - 1945" and briefly outline the organization and training of the Regiment for that war. The lighter moments are similar and even common today. However, the last quote serves to remind us, that even in our training today, ours is still a very serious business.

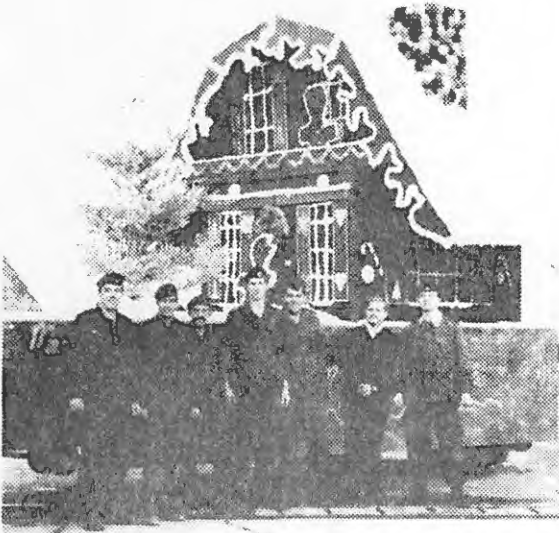
Soldiering in Lehr



The first rebuild



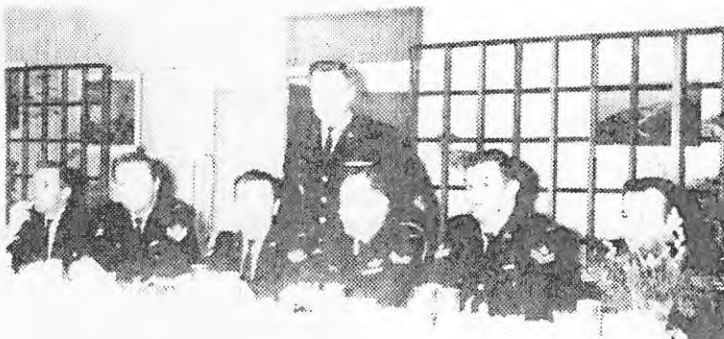
WO Berry, Cpl Guilbert and Cpl Hogan watch the fall of shot in the IMR.



The winning Christmas Parade Float and its builders.



RCD cadets Peter Atkinson and Ken Klein present the cheque from the Poppy Campaign to the Base Commander.



The Men's Christmas Dinner.

A SQUADRON

Master Warrant Officer J. Cluett, CD

A Squadron commenced the year with Gun Camp at Bergen Hohne. Besides the benefit gained from the practice, two incidents are worthy of honourable mention. Lt "Will" MacDonald, whilst innocently testing his dog clutch, managed to wrap his gun barrel around a tree and Third Troop broke a new record for night life being assessed DM 180 for damages.

This was followed by adventure training in the form of a team to scale the hazardous mountains in the Bavarian Alps, more specifically BERCHTESGADEN. Capt Phil Lancaster gathered together a team composed of Third Troop and SHQ. Base Camp was established at a regular camping site and daily assaults were made upon the surrounding mountains culminating with the JENNER. At the graduation ceremonies Maj Terry Seeley presented MCpl Lloyd (Clark Kent) Piercey with his secret identity - he was last seen flying over the JENNER heading for Newfoundland.

Next came MUNSINGEN or "Mudsingen" (which ever you prefer). We were lucky: the weather proved tremendous and some valuable training took place. Because of the absence of an SSM, MCpl Fred Tobin was largely responsible for organizing and setting up the camp, but before he could receive a battle field promotion to MWO rank and entrench himself into the SSM position permanently, MWO Jerry Cluett arrived on the scene (to replace MWO Reg Williams who had repatriated to Canada.)

At the conclusion of the Munsingen training period, A Squadron leaguered for maintenance, food and rest (party) prior to the railhead move. However the battle was not yet won. A small group of enterprising chaps comprised of such notorious personalities as Lepine, Murdoch, Valley, Montague, Wylie and Weins known as "Cluett's Marauders" took it upon themselves to attack the B Squadron party. WO Lepine was designated to carry out the recce and he successfully found the best route. The attack went in with para flares and thunder flashes. Not to be outdone, B Squadron retaliated at the most vulnerable time of 0300 hrs. They struck with smoke bombs whilst shouting "Gas, Gas, Gas". It was effective: mass confusion reigned. Some were busy fixing cylinders to their gas masks while others (Major Bob Caldwell, Capt Jim Fournier and MCpl Martel) crawled into their sleeping bags. All in all, Munsingen was good fun and good training and the Squadron started to work as a team.

Hohenfels was to be a deciding factor as to how well we were tailored. We left for Hohenfels in high spirits. Tank trains are a most enjoyable experience for all except perhaps the unsuspecting subaltern who is selected as train conducting officer.

The departure was highlighted when Stefi Tiepelt appeared with the German Press and filmed the loading for German TV. All the officers shook hands with Fraulein Tiepelt as Brigitte of Base Movements was bidding farewell to the OC.

When the train got on the road (or track) it was discovered that A Bty 1 RCHA had forgotten the rations gad! Of course the TCO was happy about this situation and did not become irritable at all (well almost). The Black Hats, without hesitation, pooled their resources and within 1/2 hour the trainman was briefed (40 oz Black Velvet) and the train for some mysterious reason developed a brake problem at Bruchsal where the Squadron ate well and the trainmen got schnapped up.

With the exception of our refusing a building because of the residue of a suspected pot party inside it, the Squadron swiftly settled into Hohenfels. Training commenced immediately and with very few lulls. Sgt "Nick" Nicholson of First Troop, on his very first mission at night as a path finder with Cpl Henry Blackie as driver, drove the tank into an old bomb shell. Nick still has an exhilarating feeling from the incident and has subsequently developed a morbid fear of high places. Later on, Nick fell off his tank and was evacuated to Lahr where, for the first two weeks, he slept on the floor.

WO Tony Gatowski of Third Troop kept the enemy at a standstill by his well versed contact reports. The Ops Office at this very moment think they have successfully deciphered his fourth report of Hohenfels but it may be some time before they complete Reforger.

"Track Pin" Sherer (Militia), known for his lack of weight, was violently blown off the back deck one rainy morning. Figuring that it might be safer, he next slept on top of the turret a few nights later, only to land on Cpl Jim Roberts who was asleep on the ground below.

Rest, relaxation, and a trip to Munich and Lahr followed Hohenfels and after all that Reforger VI pounced upon us. It was the finale of the year and A Squadron pulled through it with flying colours with the most able assistance of our Maintenance Section. Men like Bill Goundry, Lloyd Yurett, Roger Gallant, Bill Weins supervising their crews pulled us out of many a situation by using their technical expertise coupled with hard physical labour.

Weather-wise Reforger was horrible; it rained and at times was very cold. Cpl John Main can tell you just how cold it was if you enquire about his frost bitten toes.

By the end of the exercise C/S 14C was beginning to be a popular call sign on the Squadron net. He would never quite make it into battle. It's not that he wasn't at the RV, it was just that by the time he got there the battle was 20 km away. In fact he almost missed the tank train back to Lahr. (It's nice and warm on the back deck.)

WO Russ Berry left us guessing for quite a while when he failed to return to the final RV. Several vehicles attempted to find him and his crew with no positive results. All hope was lost and we gave him up as being abducted by the Russians. We were prepared to leave without him when out of the blue he showed up. We still feel that he was just trying to find out if we really cared for him.

It's a shame but during Reforger 1975 Major Bob Caldwell still won't be able to say "The same as last year". Even though he and his Squadron were advancing to contact, and the Squadron was in Bavaria, he was in Lahr: he was keeping an EYE on things. Actually, he did suffer an eye injury and the summary investigation strongly recommended erasers be attached to both ends of all DND pens and pencils.

CIRCLIPS (as we go to press): MCpl Al Barker's diet worked but the obesity CFAO does not cover what action we take on providing new uniforms... Capt Wade Cuthbertson, new LO, has arrived... The tracks on 18C still rattle; why do the RCEME vehicles always need maintenance?... Cpl Gavin Walker is off to cook's school; watch yourself when ground guiding your stove Gav... MCpl Pat Buzzell has reorganized the orderly room again; where are you going to sit now Fred?... Why does Cpl Rooster Wylie receive his car magazines addressed Colonel Rooster SB Wylie?...

B SQUADRON

Warrant Officer C.E. Williamson, CD

1974 commenced with a Crew Commander Gunnery Refresher Course to aid the new arrivals from Canada and to remind the older ones that all their time is not to be spent skiing in the Black Forest. It became readily

apparent that the refresher was required as a crew commander with four years European experience mounted an IMR tank, very professionally carried out his "ACTION DRILLS" and then announced "SHELL RANGING". Following the policy of B Squadron, we do not wish to mention names. We do wish to say that we were all sorry to see WO Tom Urbanowsky leave us for CFB Gagetown.

The last of January saw the Squadron at Hohne for a training gun camp. The time 0800 HRS.. the place ... Range 6. Maj Norm Ashton mounts the tower and surveys his tanks on the pad, CSU's running, crew commanders observing down range. He then gives the order "ACTION". In c/s 22C, MCpl Doran Vienneau receives the order and relays it on to his gunner. Rather than hear his gunner's instinctive response, he heard a dull snore from below. Upon looking closer, Cpl Danny Fyke was seen to be sprawled upon the traverse indicator resting his eyes. When he was awakened Danny explained in good soldierly fashion that he was preparing his eyes for night firing.

Upon return to garrison, it was time to get the tanks in condition for the next exercise period. Under the watchful eye's of WO Bob Johnston, MCpl Doug Norton (and his 12 inch adjustable) could be seen moving from tank to tank making minor adjustments, or was this from hide to hide, Doug?

March saw thirty members of the Squadron travel to the Leopard factory in Munchen. A very interesting day was spent, however Cpl Ray Mueller came to the conclusion that it was impossible to smuggle a Leopard home with us.

During April the troops got some time to conduct adventure training, under troop arrangements. Third Troop, under WO Tom Urbanowsky decided to take a float trip in a 12 man raft down the Rhine River. Of course this was the last anyone saw of WO Tom and his merry band for the month of April. For as anyone knows, a three day float trip requires two Squadron cooks with kitchen truck, plus emergency rations for at least thirty people and three weeks of administration. Our SSM, MWO "Big Julie" Levesque came to the rescue however and gave them some hard rations and a bottle of cheap wine. The last that was heard from Third Troop was Cpl Jim Neathway's great concern over who's responsibility it was to bring the cork screw.

As this was going on, and not to be out done, our SHQ decided to rent bicycles and tour the Black Forest. You will note how this Troop is not taking any chances of being seen by anyone; right into the bushes

they're heading. Once on the road, however MWO George Levesque found a use for all his map reading experience. For one day and night he and MCpl "Mo" Morash did a tour independent of the Troop (or was that the Troop doing it independent of the SSM?).

Upon arriving at Munsingen this year the first three days were devoted to Troop Training which enabled crews a chance to shake-out. It was during this period that Second Troop began wondering how they had won the Squadron "Johnson Trophy" for the annual technical inspection since it wasn't until the third day that they had more than one tank on the road; however, they did look pretty.

The next phase of training consisted of battle procedure and occupation of Hides and Defensive positions. It was during this period that First Troop, commanded by Capt Bill Fulton commenced their Troop SOP's. It seems they gave their location states at least 1000 M from actual location. This did two things: it checked everybody's map reading and confused the troop acting as enemy.

Munsingen was when our Squadron cooks seemed determined to get us out of shape for our five mile run. Sgt Nelson MacPhee and MCpl (now Sgt) Allie Wadden could be seen any time of the day or night preparing their gastronomical delights. As Allie liked to say, "Cooking is like maintaining a tank, simply add a little grease, buddy."

MCpl Ron Scott managed to go through the whole Hohenfels period without rolling a tank this year; however, it wasn't because he didn't try on occasion. Lt Bud Gorman, on loan from the Hussars, did however manage on two occasions to get his tank into "mexican" and change the local features of the area. His driver Cpl Pierre Simard has been rated high on his consistency of going from 4th to 3rd and then into the "Booney's. Also the operator, Cpl Fred Myers, has found he can drink a can of beer from the time the driver misses his gear until impact.

Sgt Lyndon Grant, upon hearing the codeword for H Hour, immediately broke down on the start line and lost all communications with the Squadron. However, he must have had a spy on the net as the Squadron met up with him at the railhead two weeks later. By the way Lyndon, we understand Cpl Ron White and Cpl Oliver McEvoy are now qualified to build barns.

Most of the Squadron did manage to cross the SL and three days later decide to have a party in a turnip field, sponsored by Second Troop. After three tanks of Second Troop had bogged down, they found they could not entice MCpl Doran Vienneau to join them. Sgt (now WO) Frank Smith of First Troop, being the type to accept a challenge, bellied up before reaching the centre of the party. MCpl Ron Scott however did manage to get into the centre of things before bogging down. Capt Bill Fulton was unfortunately out of gas and couldn't make it, so Sgt Jerry Pearson and his AVLB was asked to join in, bogging in the process. Then the M548 en route with Capt Fulton's gas blew an engine. Before the night was over, Sgt Vern Black had bogged the ARV and broke the cables on both his ARV and HQ Squadron's, not once but six times whilst trying to break up the party. The 2 IC, Capt Kirk Thornton, asked the OC what could go wrong next - the OC put him on radio silence!

Sgt Don Zimmerman will also recount how he effectively blocked A and B Squadrons' exit from the town of Reichertweis and managed to destroy a new paved road which must have been the enemy's main axis of approach. It is rumoured that at least six enemy M60's followed his tracks down the road into a pit, from which he was forcefully evacuated.

MCpl Joe Zinck and Cpl Terry Gibson saved their hides by inventing some story about being held at Division HQ, but the 2 IC suspected something and is still trying to plot their movements.

During Reforger Capt Bill Fulton and Cpl McDonald were trying to get some sleep on the back deck when Cpl Gord Gernsbech decided to move the tank on his own. As the engine started up Capt Fulton jumped off the back deck in full gainer form and landed spread eagled in a foot of mud, still in his sleeping bag.

From the above it is easy to see why we will be required to attend Reforger again this coming year.

For the most part it was a very interesting (unusual!!) year, and here we are starting another. Stay loose B Squadron.

C SQUADRON

Master Corporal F. Bierhorst

The beginning of 1974 saw C Squadron personnel busily preparing for a new year. Gunnery Refresher Training was taken in hand by Sgt's Mike Alcock and 'Tune' Martin in preparation for Hohne Gun Camp. We learned the fundamental skills and gunnery drills that might have been forgotten over the festive season. Hearing the familiar "gun fires okay, gun stops" plus a few encouraging words from our instructors, it wasn't long before we were ready for gun camp.

On our arrival at Hohne, we moved the Lynx's to the firing pads and after tarping the monsters down, we were moved into the well furnished barracks. During the next week, the Squadron carried out a very successful firing session through some of the worst weather in Germany. This foul weather did not, however, discourage us from taking the occasional trips to the lovely churches and museums of Hamburg. Finally, the time came to pack everything up and prepare for the move back to Lahr and our loved ones. It seemed that on these rail moves back, we were always passing the slower tank trains, which caused us great concern and gave us feelings of deep remorse.

The next task laid upon our shoulders was to see if our vehicles could swim at the BAGGERSEE. To make things different, the order of march was First Troop, Second Troop, Third Troop, etc. First Troop seemed a little leary as they cautiously approached the water while Second Troop, seeing that no harm had come to First Troop, boldly charged in, doing a combat entry. All this was done under the watchful eye of Major Doug Bland and Captain Gerry MacLean who always seemed to stiffen and break out in a cold sweat as each vehicle entered the water.

During the month of March, troop training was carried out in Lahr and the surrounding area. Captain Don Craig, Third Troop leader, always seemed to volunteer his services as enemy for his Troop with Cpl Ernie Garnier as 33E. Neither one could ever be found until the end of the day when traces would mysteriously end around Cpl Garnier's house. I wonder?

In April, the Squadron moved out for training in the RMA, which is a two and one half hour drive from Lahr by Lynx. Here the aim of the game was troop testing and training in preparation for the big exercises in the fall. Again the weather played havoc with our activities, as it always rained moving to the RMA or into a leaguer and it

even snowed as we moved into a blocking position in the wee hours of the morning. All was not gloomy, however, as we were served some excellent steaks by Sgt 'Monk' Winchester and Cpl Yves Dion to be washed down with those soothing rum toddies. Could life be so good on civy street, we wondered as we made the long trip back to Lahr.

We were no sooner back, than it was Troop Adventure Training. Third Troop built a Health Path in Interlangenbach. It was strange having a German civilian boss, however, he soon came around to our way of thinking after a night of getting acquainted over a few quiet social drinks and a barbeque. First Troop were up to their usual shenanigans, causing an international incident and scaring an already terrified Swiss Border Guard. Second Troop managed to paddle down the Donau. It wasn't discovered until later that their well earned stops coincided with several beer tents along the way. It all passed quickly and as normal the fun ended too quickly.

Once again together as a Squadron, it was back to Hohne for some more shooting to see if we had learned anything from the last gun camp. The competition was hot but one patrol stood out in the end. Alpha patrol of Third Troop under the guidance of Sgt Mike Alcock won the best patrol award for the battle runs.

Instead of going straight home from Hohne, we deviated a little to Hamelin for our fast water swimming. Our leaguer was set up outside of Hamelin beside a major highway. This caused quite a problem because of the naturally curious locals who came for a closer look at the funny mound of newly dug earth beside the not so stable burlap wrapper around four poles. Our guys soon overcame their shyness, perhaps out of necessity, and we started our swimming. Everything went okay. Even the vehicles that found themselves down river managed to get back with a few helpful and encouraging words from the control tower. When finished swimming for the day, 39 BUS was always available to take us to downtown Hamelin to take in the parade of the Pied Piper and to test the local stock - of beer.

After the return from Hamelin, most of the Squadron went on some well deserved leave, to build up their strength for the up coming Hohenfels and Reforger Exercises.

The warm clothing was brought out, the grease pencils were sharpened and the Lynx's were given the last finishing touches as we loaded for Hohenfels. Basic driving, followed by patrols getting used to each other, troop exercises and a final Squadron exercise were the order for Hohenfels. We even managed to squeeze in some

small arms classification. As enemy against the two infantry battalions and two tank squadrons, we showed the superiority of the Lynx once again by driving them right out of the training area. However, they soon forgave us as we moved into our concentration area with the rest of the Regiment. Here, our vehicles were worked on and some of us got to go back home for 48 hrs, where showers were taken, laundry was done and the few fringe benefits of being home were taken.

We crossed the start line for Reforger at midnight a few days later which came as no surprise to us since it had started to pour down rain. The drill for Reforger was "we'll push you back for a couple of days if you'll push us back". First Troop managed to use all of their M-72's plus a few thousand more they managed to dig up while Lt Gary Moore of Second Troop managed to take on four M60 tanks and successfully out manoeuvre and kill them during one phase of the exercise.

Cease fire came 10 days later. It was announced and followed by "Rock Your Baby" being played over the air compliments of an unknown MCpl. We moved to a concentration area, on to the railhead and back home for a little rest.

At home, we started right into our Brigade Commander's inspection and preparation for the Christmas period. Excitement was high for those who had gone through the whole year as they realized they could now join countless others and say and understand the words "We're going to do it -- the same as last year!"

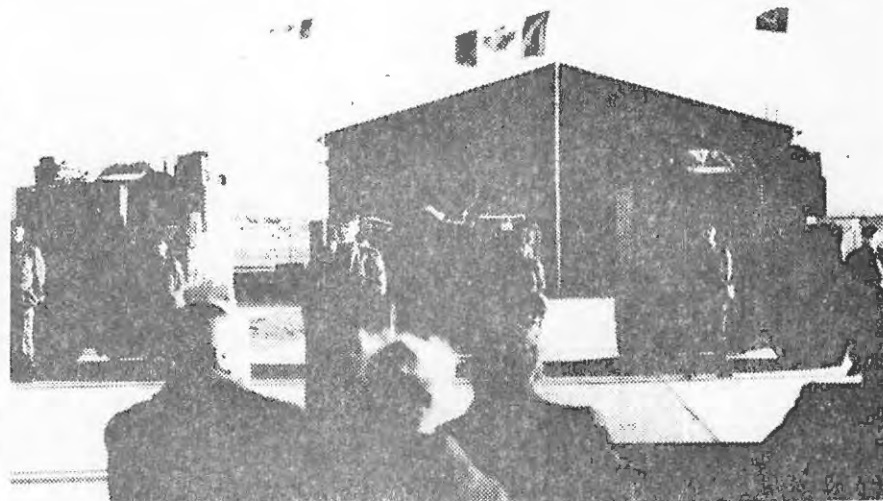
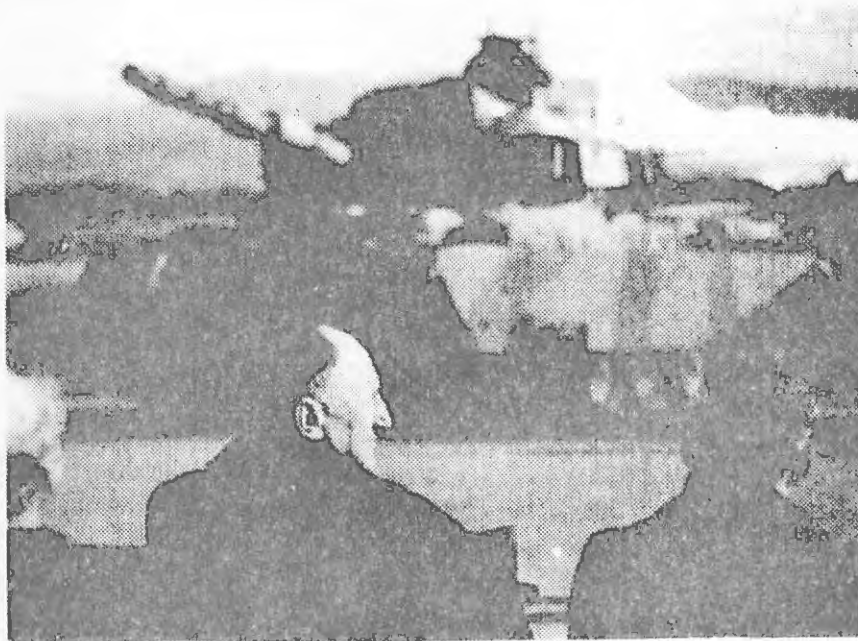
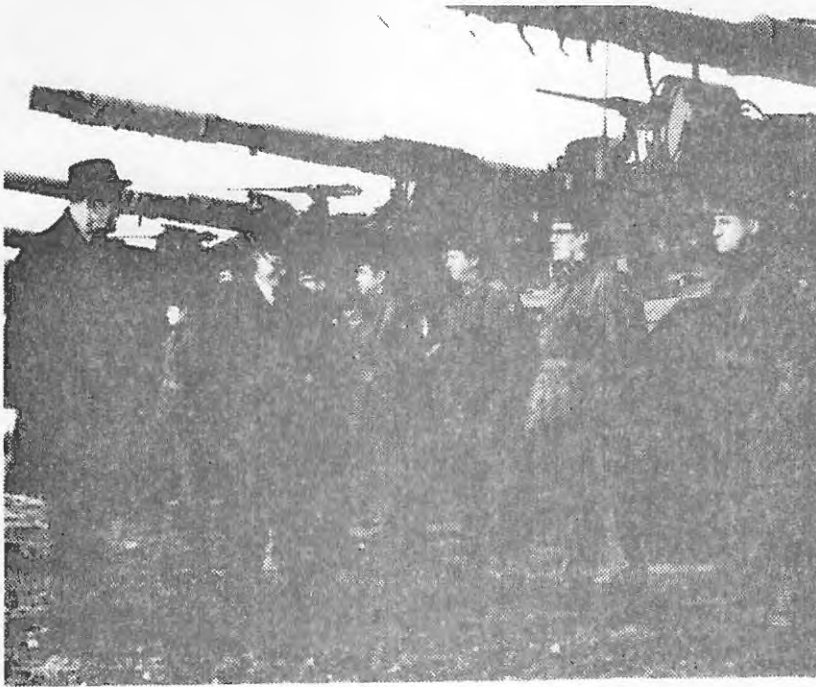
HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON

Master Warrant Officer G.H. Levesque, CD
(and the assistance of all HQ Squadron)

The year 1974 started off with a "Bang" in Headquarters Squadron, in fact so much of a bang that one sub-unit was well into February before they realized that it was no longer 1973.

Well, so much for the admission of the only mistake we made all year, and on to the good news. Our first major deployment of the year was once again in support of the Sabre Squadrons in Bergen-Hohne, and it proved to be a real fun time. The accommodation provided by the Squadron was comparable to the Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo, the rations exceeded the Club "21" in New York and the pleasant surroundings of the country side were

'What's a Dog and Pony Show?'



Well. I'll tell ya... '...It's a Kennel and Cavalry Parade!'

as familiar as jolly old Gagetown. "Were the Squadrons HAPPY?" "NO", they said (unjustly) "The quarters were cramped, the food was bland and the weather was deplorable." This was definitely not true, in fact we had a problem closing out the camp because some people just didn't want to leave. They had so much fun in "Hamburg" "Oops" "Hohne" that they just wouldn't leave. From all reports, the logistical side did go well and this was confirmed on the last day, when MWO "Make it Happen" Prouse boarded the bus grinning like a torn paillassé mumbling, "All mattress covers are accounted for". It was a good training gun camp and it was the cooperation of all concerned that made it so.

On return to Lahr we once again settled into our own magnificent quarters and prepared for the up coming training year, with the "Vim" and "Vigour" which only HQ Squadron can muster for display. 11 February 74 is a date which will forever remain pure in the hearts of the Squadron alpine enthusiasts. Yes, we too sent personnel from the safety of our lines to traverse the mighty Black Forest slopes. With hearts of steel and on sticks of wood, they challenged the gods of fate and thundered down the mountains. Welcome home Cpl "Flash" Dube, we hope your leg heals for next year's course. To a man (less Cpl Dube) they thoroughly enjoyed themselves and resolved never to return.

Before we get into our training cycle, I must take this opportunity to enlighten you on the status of our ever elusive "Sigs detachment", who operate as we all know, under the astute leadership of MCpl "Frenchie" Bob Foster. "Yes, you do know him." He coached the HQ Squadron tug-o-war team to a perfect NO win victory (even though they were all dressed the same). "What did they do all year?" Well, Cpl "Assistant Postie" Banta sat in the post office and smiled at MCpl "John" Josh (after having discovered Hamburg). Cpl "Ho Chi Min" Laliberte managed to evade all of the Honour Guards for another year. It may never happen again but for once I have them all accounted for.

Things settled into an almost normal routine, when out of the clear blue skies over Lahr, rang the mighty cry "WE ARE CLOSED". Yes, once again Regimental Quartermaster Stores had hung out their sign and struck us a mighty blow, but alas this time to our advantage... MWO Prouse decided to again "Make it Happen" and backed by his stalwart supply technicians (driven of course by his enforcer WO "Bill" McCracken) proceeded to tear and throw out, what appeared to we outsiders, as the complete inside of the QM building. What in fact had happened however was a complete re-organization and rebuilding of the Quartermaster facilities. When the dust finally

settled, (some weeks later) the Quartermaster staff were delighted with their handy work and so were we. "Well done Logistics Troop" (the entrance and exit signs are particularly pretty).

No sooner had we bragged up our improved Quartermaster supply system to the rest of the Regiment, when low and behold what faces us but the $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile basic military Physical Fitness test. A chance to prove to all the other Squadrons, including Regimental Headquarters that we of Headquarter Squadron are as physically fit, if not better, than any of them. Well done B Squadron, (we lied about the physically fit part). Watch our smoke in the upcoming new year!

Garrison routine for the most part does not vary greatly and our support roles carry on regardless of training or tasking, so it is during this period that we see Transport Troop under the direction of Warrant Officer "Howdy Howie" Owen, supplying all sorts of commodities to the squadron and manpower for the many tasks that the Squadron Sergeant Major dreams up (according to transport). True to their motto "MAX FLEX with MIN PERS", transport digs in for yet another stint in garrison. Maintenance Troop although low in profile manages to keep us on our toes with ATI's and maintenance checks, so time is far from idle on any front and "performance" is our key word.

Then back to Bergen-Hohne once again in support of the Sabre Squadrons, only this time, unlike the first, they said, "the accommodation was great, the food was delicious, and the surroundings of the country side perfect." "Yes" and all the mattress covers were accounted for too. When things are that good who can comment.

"Where does time go?" Rotation is with us again and we must reluctantly say good-bye to the old comrades who have served their time, and extend a hearty welcome to those who now join us. This year being a major rotation year both for the Regiment as well as the Squadrons, I find myself ill equipped to list all the personnel who have left our ranks or joined them. I will however make two exceptions and say a fond farewell to Major E. Exley who has left our ranks for the greener pastures of Regimental Headquarters and Master Warrant Officer "Busher" Bennett who has left for his old stomping grounds in Gagetown. A hearty welcome from the Squadron to Major D.A. Henderson our new Officer Commanding. To all others we extend a soldiers farewell, "until we meet again".

As I "officially" joined the Squadron, once again it was time to pack up our snow shoes and move out. "Yep" this time to Munsingen. This, contrary to popular belief, proved to be a very enjoyable period for the Squadron. It was during this period we were finally

able to give our own vehicles a good going over maintenance wise and also to do some necessary repairs on equipment the "Squadrons" had broken for us. Cpl "Bob" Charland became well versed on the internal workings of a bell, when CWO "Norm" Frenette decided to check the exterior seams of the water trailer with a sledge hammer, while Bob was inside doing repairs??? "Bob, it is not polite to swear at CWO's." Cpl "Barry" Murray attended some French classes and learned the difference between "WINDOW" and "WASHROOM", the hard way. "Nice going Murray." Logistics Troop was far from idle during this period. WO "Bill" McCracken established a duty roster detailing Quartermaster staff to go out and round up customers. This had to eventually be discontinued, as the soldiers were complaining that Cpl "Roger" Plante was fighting over them before they entered stores and forcing them to take flashlight batteries for their radio's and other goodies they did not require. It was a good camp and I will not make mention of Exercise MOUNTAIN WANDERER VI at this time for fear of enraging the masses.

After all of that you would think we would have stood down and had a well deserved rest, but "NO", Headquarters as always, soldiered on. Next we found ourselves firmly entrenched in "Hohenfels" (the fun camp). I don't know what it is about Hohenfels that attracts us; maybe its the lush accommodation or the friendly atmosphere. What ever it is, funny it is not. One good point though: MCpl "John" Josh managed to keep us "Royally entertained" in the evenings with his amusing anecdotes and films on germ warfare. Thanks to John Josh the flu bug didn't get us all. The rations during this period were exceptional; the cooks worked long hours under adverse conditions to prepare first class cuisine for the soldiers. In fact they were so keen that Sgt "Dick" Waddington made 38 box lunches for six Headquarters Squadron personnel and gave them to C Squadron. A "Rose" for you Dick. Question: "What is the ground composed of on the grenade range?" For the answer, see MCpl "Smelly John" Josh.

One could not hope to end an exercise period without at least a few words on exercise Reforger. This is the exercise at the end of our field training period which is designed to test our metal and allow us to strut our stuff. The hours are long, conditions are hard and we enjoy it. Not normally until cease fire, but we do enjoy it. Due to other commitments during the exercise, the Padre was not always available to the Squadron. "Persevere and we shall overcome", and we did. MCpl "The Reverend" Kearney held services for all Transport Troop in his tent and believe it or not did manage to convert one soldier, in the form of MCpl "Ralph" Dort. (But only for a short period of time.)

The trucks trucked, the carriers carried and we got mighty wet. In the words of WO "Grump" McMillan, "We had fun, and came home".

We returned to Lahr only to find Regimental Headquarters had been "Sneakily" (Irish word) training for the 1½ mile basic military Physical Fitness test. Of course they won the competition from B Squadron but then, we never promised anything until the new year, did we? (Smile)

Suffice to say there is neither time nor space to comment on all the highlights of our training year. Nor give just credit to all of the Headquarters Squadron personnel who made it a successful one. To all who participated, a pat on the back for a job well done, and we eagerly look forward to 1975, so we can complete all our Must Do's.

Must Do's for 1975

Knit a clerk for the Quartermaster.

Put a return spring on Cpl Radchenko.

Promote "MIKO" (Charlie's dog).

Keep noise down on PT so pers can sleep.

Remove curling rock from Sgt "Charlie" Stevens hand.

Clean WO "Dad" Watson's pipe.

Convince Sgt "Bill" Baillie that chewing snuff is better than cigars.

RHQ TROOP

Sergeant J. Woolridge, CD
Master Corporal D.S. Mason, CD

1974 was a busy year for RHQ Troop. There was a major change over in personnel with Sgt Bill Baillie taking over as the Intelligence Sgt, WO (now MWO) Ron Marriott as Operations Warrant and of course, our new CO, LCol J.K. Dangerfield.

The most noteworthy happening in the first half of 1974, was the disappearance of most of the troop on Nijmegen march training and of course, the march itself.

It was then off to Munsingen. There we shook out as an RHQ and got to know what the new CO expected of us, through a three day CPX. I'm sure that everyone enjoyed themselves even though we put on as many miles as the tank squadrons. During Munsingen MCpl Harry Biggar distinguished himself in the barracks by descending from his top bunk horizontally, and then proceeded to expropriate the bed of MCpl Al Young. A famous comic strip soldier distinguished himself by occupying a bed space on the barrack room floor after a particularly gruelling Phatt session.

We all managed to survive our harrowing experience as enemy force for the tank squadrons, with some help from five Leopards from the Bundeswehr, and two FV432's from a British Artillery Regiment. The British crews were in Munsingen on adventure training!

We proceeded home then, for some well deserved R & R and then got ready for Hohenfels. The RSM, CWO Yeomans, is thinking of offering a reward for the capture of the man who backed a 5 tonner over his head the night the advance party arrived at Hohenfels.

Between trips to Regensburg we managed to get some training done. It was time for annual refresher training, mainly SMG, grenade and demolitions. Of course it rained and rained to help us improve our marksmanship.

Another CPX sharpened up our skills and got people settled in their new jobs in the troop. The CO got off the ground in his new Tac HQ and soon became a familiar sight all over the training area. After completion of Hohenfels and Exercise Pony Express, we moved off to the Brigade concentration area and began preparations for our favourite holiday, Reforger VI.

Another very short (two days) R & R for most of the troop and we were into the thick of things, as REDLAND made its big push forward and back and forward and back again. Reforger, of course, is the culmination of all of our year's training and preparation, and as usual the Regiment acquitted itself in its normal, cheerful professional manner. Once again RHQ managed to get as many miles on our vehicles as the tank squadrons did; most of them in the beautiful foggy darkness.

The highlight of Reforger was the advance to contact on the RHQ hide in "The Diplomat" at Buxheim. This not-so-successful operation was carried out in the darkness by two members of the troop who shall be known only by their initials, (John Lepage and Ken McLeish).

Once again the tank troops got very used to seeing the Tac HQ popping up in odd places as the CO ran the Regiment from this very mobile vehicle.

All personnel were very happy to see the end of the longest ever Reforger and return home to the quiet period of Leliefontein and Commander's Inspection. Both went off quite well and were a fitting climax to a long hard training year.

The highlight of the year was the regaining of the Clement Trophy, emblematic of the highest percentage of personnel attaining excellent standard on the semi-annual PT Test. The fastest man in the troop, MCpl Charlie Brown, still swears Lucy was chasing him.

A part of the troop that hasn't been mentioned yet, is that group of people who wear that odd shaped hat badge and operate those funny tanks, the members of the Royal Canadian Engineers. While they are part of RHQ Troop in garrison, in the field they work, naturally enough, with the tank squadrons and other units of the Brigade.

The Bridge Layers, commonly called AVLBs, were pulled out of moth balls and sent to the RCD in February of 1974. The lack of trained personnel was solved by members of the RCE who were posted to the RCD from different Engineer Squadrons in Canada.

In Munsingen the AVLB crews practised the operation and maintenance of the vehicles and refreshed their memories on the laying of the Bridge, whilst the RCD drivers and crew commanders gained experience in using the Bridge. It was soon realized by most tank drivers that the curbs were easily removed by running off the side of the bridge and that the gap in the centre of the bridge could not hold the weight of a tank. A special note of thanks to the AVLB crews consisting of Sgt Bruce, Cpl Penney and Cpl Woodhouse, Sgt Pearson, MCpl Jack and Cpl Heatt, and Sgt Woolridge, Cpl Doucette and Cpl English.

MAINTENANCE TROOP - 1974

Captain W.J. Brewer

The year 1974 proved to be interesting for Maintenance Troop. Although everyone was kept busy, morale remained high at all times due to the effort put forth by all concerned. Most important of all, the troop seemed to strike an effective balance between the right time to work and the right time to play.

Exercise Mountain Wanderer sent Headquarters Squadron hurtling off into the Black Forest Region around Freudenstadt to practise their movement and deployment drills. During one crash move, Maintenance Troop arrived in the new location well organized but mysteriously lacking a co-driver for one Mobile Repair Team. Suffice to say that our abandoned comrade, on sending out a "secret search" party, was found where we had left him quietly putting the finishing touches to an engine tune up!!! (How's that "Delta Dawn"?)

This year also saw a new "management" take over in the Headquarters Squadron electrical van and with it came the concept of the "troop Exercise canteen". All kidding aside, the "Van" was a valuable asset on those hot, dusty days in Hohenfels and provided welcome shelter for all during the cold and rain.

While enjoying the hospitality of Camp Hohenfels, the Maintenance Officer was able to convince the Quartermaster that he really did need a "hoochie", probably because of the threat to sabotage the Quartermaster's 3/4 ton truck. At any rate, all went well and Officer Commanding Maintenance headed off to Reforger pulling a "Palace on Wheels". (To quote the Quartermaster.)

Exercise Reforger proved beyond a doubt that Maintenance Troop could be counted on to reach the proper location, regardless of the route taken (right Chief?). The "Big Bird" found a quail nest in the trailer behind his 3/4 ton vehicle and found that the occupant of the trailer was a pretty good cook after all.

In summary, a good effort by all helped to make this a successful year for Maintenance Troop. Hopefully, the years to come will be as successful as this.

THE RCD MEN'S REST AREA

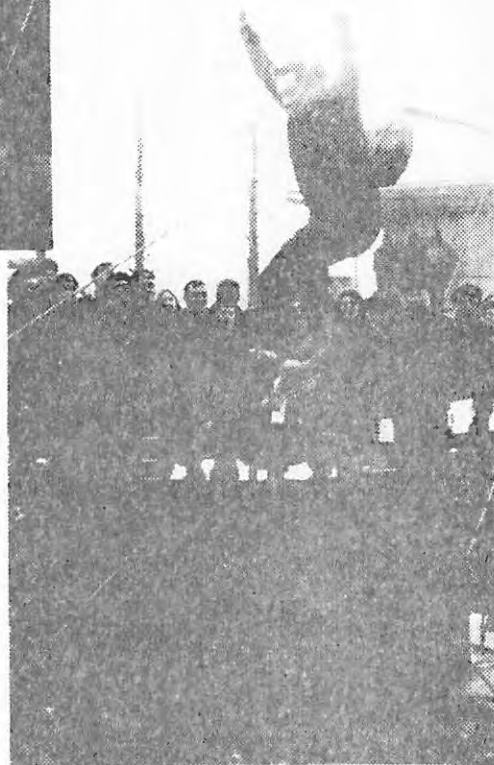
Master Corporal F. Bierhorst

The RCD Men's Rest Area was first established when NDHQ decided to save money and close all unit Junior Rank's Clubs. Our Junior Rank's Club was soon hit and not too much later, the Rest Area opened. Thinking back on it though, it was probably established by the RSM as a place to keep idle bodies out of the CO's sight during coffee breaks and lunch periods.

The Sporting Life



CO - Ready!



CO - Going!



"Watch out! It's going to explode!"



CO - Gone!

Initially the Rest Area was a place to grab a quick snack and coffee at coffee break, play a few friendly games of cards or have a cool beer without having to travel three miles to the AMU canteen and mix with the lower calibre of other units. It became a place where only members of the RCD were present and we could get together and talk shop without having to hear about how much gravel somebody pounded that day.

The Rest Area supplies were also a blessing in the form of a canteen on exercise. Be it in the back of a 2½ ton truck driven by Cpl Ken Jacobs, set up in the Men's Mess in Munsingen, in the musty barracks basement at Hohne or under canvas in the concentration area of Reforger, it was comforting to get a package of Canadian cigarettes and hear the latest rumours from home and get away from the exhaust and grease to quaff a few cool ones.

Most members of the Rest Area are presently dissatisfied with it. Most of them can remember the rest area or Junior Rank's Club as a, if not powerful organization, a rich one.

Old Tankers remember whipping the Officers' Mess team in hockey and getting in a few licks or an accidental high stick now and then. Or, they remember the elaborate games nights with the Senior NCO's, the Happy Hours that turned into Happy Weekends and the great dances that were held in the old RCD Junior Rank's Club.

We can still have all of those old things again with more interest from the Rest Area members today. With the small profit we make on sales of berets, beer and alcohol, along with a bit from Regimental Funds, we are struggling along at present. Recently, we managed to get some money from base for renovations which will give us a new floor, new electrical fixtures and maybe improve the walls. These renovations won't happen overnight though, as they require some careful thought and long term planning.

Looking further to the future, we hope to get everyone interested in the Rest Area's activities, as after all it is everyone's Rest Area. The Rest Area itself can only be used for coffee and lunch, but we the members of the Rest Area can plan special functions to be held there or elsewhere. We need the support of all.

WO & SGTS REST AREA

Warrant Officer F.H. Smith, CD

This was a very active and successful year for the Rest Area. After much discussion the existence of the Rest Area was officially recognized and plans can now be made for renovating our area.

On 24 May 74 all WO & Senior NCO's gathered in the main mess for the annual mugging-out of all Senior NCO's leaving this year. It was a very successful evening. It is hoped that all future mugouts for RCD Senior NCO's can be held in our Rest Area.

On 30 May 74 a mess dinner was held in the main mess for two very special members of the mess. Sergeant C.E. (Chuck) Landrye and Lieutenant Colonel R.J. Brown were leaving us for greener pastures. Chuck was off to civy street and LCol Brown to CAS. Once again it is hoped to hold functions of this type in our own Area in future.

On 23 Jul 74 a very cordial welcome was extended to our new Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel J.K. Dangerfield in our Rest Area. Many pleasant memories were exchanged during the afternoon.

On 20 Nov 74 the Commander 4 CMBG, Brigadier General C.H. Belzile, inspected the Regiment in the morning, followed by a luncheon at the Rest Area, during which we had an opportunity to chat with General Belzile.

The annual broomball game between the Officers and Senior NCO's was held on 12 Dec 74. Much interest was generated for the game and after a hard fought contest we decided to donate the appropriate trophy to their Rest Area after having held it for so many years in our own Area. A social event followed the game and many promises of "wait till next year" and "rematch" were heard during the afternoon.

As the year ends, proposed renovations for our Rest Area include a self-help painting project and an arch way at the entrance to the Rest Area.

.../74

SR NCO/OFFICER
ANNUAL BROOMBALL GAME

Captain G.L. Sangster, CD

The "Plug Trophy": a trophy indicative of the shame and degradation of losing the annual Officers'/SR NCO's broomball game. For ten years the officers, as losers, had been custodians of this reminder. It had become a tradition.

Consequently, it was with some foreboding and resignation that the officers reported into work on 12 Dec 74; they knew that history was about to be repeated in the afternoon. Mysterious telephone calls began to play on the officers' nerves: "We're going to get you on the boards", "What kind of flowers do you like?", "Who's your next of kin?". Noon hour in the Officers' Rest Area was one of disguised tension and nervous glances. Urged on by coach Don Craig, spirits began to rise and by game time, there was enough confidence and the officers trod onto the ice.

There they were! The SR NCO team was already going through a precision practice routine.

"Hey, Leduc can't play; he's a corporal!"
"Wrong! He was a MASTER Corporal but he's been promoted Sergeant." "Now we're really done for!"

The warmups proceeded and very quickly the officers learned how to maintain their balance whilst moving on ice. Now to practice hitting the ball.

"Look, a casualty already." "Naw, it's just the Doc with an old broom handle."

Meanwhile, "Tiger" Tom Burnie was still doing his strip tease in order to find a sweater with the right colour.

"Play Ball!"

The teams faced off and the first half was under way. Sexy Shea had a breakway but got tangled in his flowing locks and overbalanced by his fantastic chest. Or was it "Dauntless" Doug Bland's finger that got tangled in Shea's hair? "OMIGOD, "Black" Jack Flannery's got the ball."

"He scored!"

The first half ended with the NCO's leading 1-0. Something had to be done. Suddenly, the wailing of

"Decible" Doug Green's bag pipes gave the officers new determination and the second half progressed as a see-saw battle. With two minutes to go, the "Mighty" Moore bashed in for that all important point, tying the game and giving both teams a chance to get organized for the sudden death overtime. Such organization! The composition of the teams for both sides changed from "3 aside" to "normal size team" to "all competitors on the ice" to "3 aside" so quickly that people were getting splinters from climbing the side boards. Finally the referee, appearing somewhat amused but weary, declared "You guys can't make up your mind's; it'll be normal teams, first goal wins". Clear, concise orders. Both teams put on their power lines and within two minutes the inevitable had happened. A goal had been scored . . . by the officers! "Handlebar" Bruce McCullough did the deed and an ancient RCD tradition had been shattered. The handshakes, pictures and "Plug" were slowly fading into history, accompanied by "Decible" Doug's wailing pipes when someone commented, "Now we have to defend the bloody thing!"

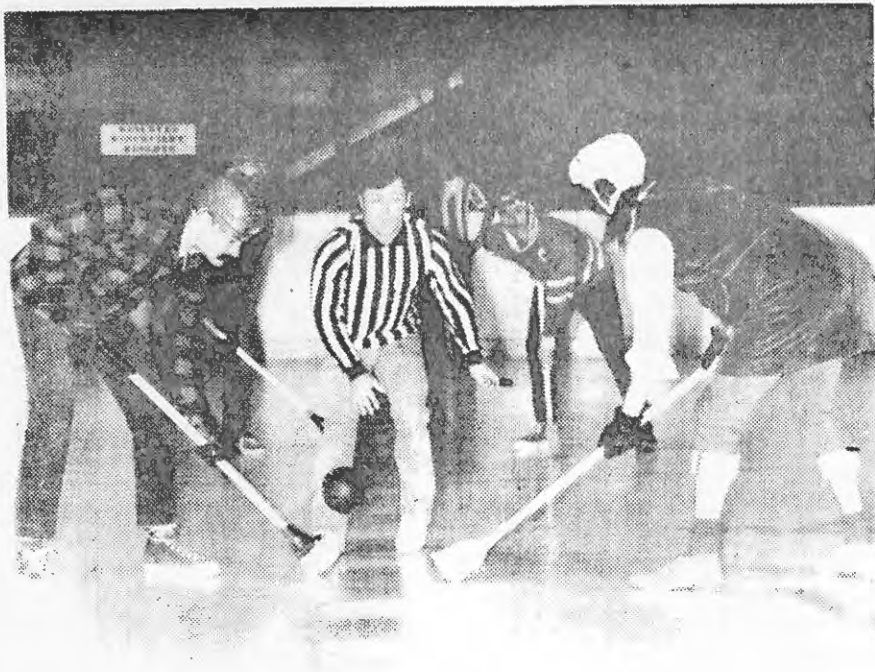
THE OFFICERS' REST AREA

Captain J.R. McKenzie

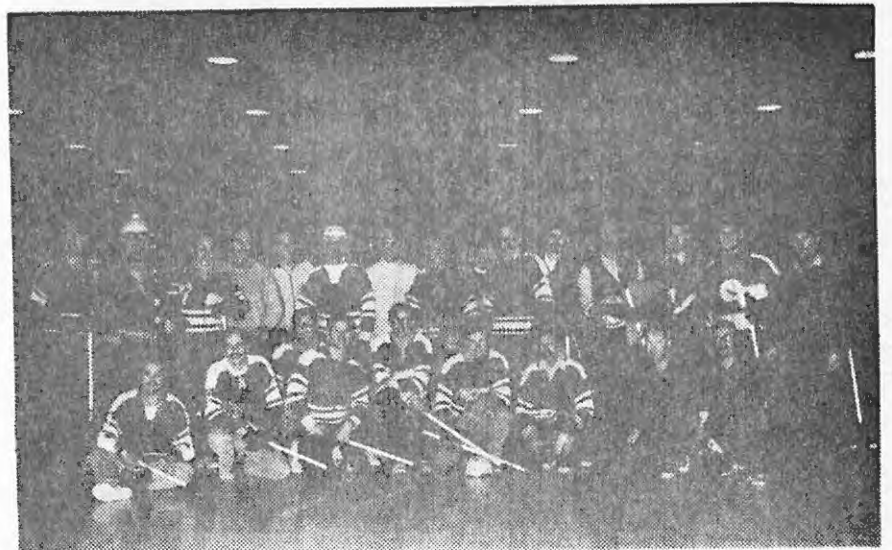
The Officers' Rest Area saw a relatively quiet year once the dust had settled on the self-help renovation program. The members, possibly exhausted after their efforts, settled down to enjoy their new surroundings. Only a few parties have been held after-hours. One to celebrate the completion of the Rest Area, one by the wives to say good-bye to Adrian Brown and finally a Bar-B-Q, held in the fall, as a meet and greet for the new arrivals.

The one new innovation in the Rest Area this year is LCol Dangerfield's Wednesday Luncheon. Intended originally as a means of meeting other Brigade and Base officers it quickly developed into an institution of its own. Sgt Murphy, the cook responsible for the Rest Area's kitchen, has distinguished himself by turning the basic fare available into delightful meals; while the Mess Secretary, the one responsible for procuring the wine, (on occasion in quantity) has distinguished himself by turning the afternoon into a growing concern. The quality of the wine is, of course, appreciated by all (or almost all) and has done its share in contributing to the infamy of the event. The Wednesday Luncheon appears to be here to stay.

Officers-Sergeants Broomball



The winners.



The losers.

Once again the position of Mess Secretary is as popular as ever. All the officers are fighting for a chance at the job and so, to be fair to all, the PMC has had to rotate several of his officers through the office. The present incumbent is definitely not looking forward to the day when he will have to surrender the key to his unsuspecting replacement.

There is an indication that the rest areas will receive more official support from Base in the future. If this is to be the case, we should be able to provide the proper service to the officers and the Rest Area to function as it was designed.

THE RCD CADET CORPS

Lieutenant W.M. MacDonald

A corps parade, with BGen P.V.B. Grieve as inspecting officer, finalized the 1973-74 training year for the Royal Canadian Dragoons Army Cadet Corps. The primary aims of the cadet movement are to develop in youth the attributes of good citizenship and leadership, and to promote physical fitness. Cadet training encompasses instruction and participation in a number of military and civilian subjects in order to accomplish these aims.

The success of the 73-74 training year was attested to by the number of RCD Cadets who held command positions at the national cadet camps in June and July. It is indeed notable that Cadet Warrant Officer Peter Atkinson was chosen as the best cadet on the National Cadet Leaders course and commanded the cadet battalion on the final parade.

The 1974-75 training year began in late October with instruction being given in such subjects as drill, small arms, fieldcraft, first aid, navigation and techniques of instruction. In addition the RCD Cadets were also responsible for the organization and co-ordination of the annual CFE Poppy Campaign. This year the cadets earned over DM 4500, the best return to date, and a cheque for the amount converted to dollars was sent to the Royal Canadian Legion to assist war veteran programs. In addition the cadets also participated in the 11 Nov Remembrance Day ceremonies.

The sponsoring unit of the corps, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, assisted cadet instructors with additional support that enabled the cadets to receive a Light Tracked Driver Course and a Tank Gunnery Course. All cadets attended both courses and the enjoyment that the cadets experienced through the instruction was evident. The courses were considered by the cadets as the training highlights of the year.

Throughout the year a variety of tours were conducted to various points of interest, such as the Lahr Police School, the Maginot line and various historic sites.

The annual Spring exercise "Muddy Waters" is the culmination of the winter training and is a comprehensive test of the skills the winter instruction has covered. Cadets were familiarized with the Kiowa Light Observation Helicopter and then transported by LOH to the training area for a two day exercise which ended with their transport back to Lahr by Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC).

The training year will end in May with the final parade, when promotions and awards earned through the winter will be presented.

REGIMENTAL SPORTS/PHYSICAL TRAINING

Captain D.E. Green

Physical training and sports continues to be an integral part of garrison routine. The Regimental PT programme is essentially unchanged from 1973 and has again proven itself. In 1974, 46% of eligible personnel attained an excellent standard in the aerobics basic test. The programme is a mix of calisthenics and running at the Marguerites, complemented by gym and pool activities at the Airfield. Survival swimming, the 1½ mile "dash", and the five mile march continue to be semi-annual milestones for unit personnel.

Increased emphasis has been placed on the weekly Regimental Sports Day. The Thursday afternoon programme includes inter-squadron hockey and volleyball leagues along with a score of other team and individual sports. Bowling, swimming and squash continue to be popular although the newly established pistol and trap shooting teams are gaining considerable support.

The 4 CMBG Ski-School conducted at Feldburg offers an excellent opportunity for aspiring skiers to receive the basics of alpine skiing. 50 unit personnel have been enrolled in the 1975 programme.

In the 74/75 CFE Leagues, the Regiment has fielded teams in baseball, intermediate hockey, broomball, volleyball and water polo.

In addition to the many inter-squadron, league and individual sports, there are several special events conducted during the year which are both popular and keenly competitive. The Spring family day this year saw B Squadron win the annual heavy tug of war competition. In the Leliefontein sports day event, A Squadron took the highest score followed closely by HQ Squadron. Lastly, but certainly not least, 12 Dec 74 saw a notable event in Regimental history. For the first time in 10 years, the officers outmatched the WO/Snr NCO broomball team.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE - 1974

Captain W.J. Brewer

Although CFE is not normally blessed with very much snow at Christmas time, the spirit of Christmas strikes home to the heart of every child through the Annual Santa Claus Parade. Units are asked to put on their thinking caps to build floats in support of this annual event. This year the parade was held on 14 Dec, and the RCD came through in fine fashion winning first prize for their version of "A Gingerbread House". The float was very well done and was easily the most popular entry in the 18 float parade.

The theme was taken from this year's Christmas version of McCall's magazine (believe it or not!). The most difficult part of building the float was in trying to find enough cotton batten to put the finishing touches on the "big house". Once CFEMC had been "cleaned out" of its reserve stocks, the only remaining source of cotton was the German economy and it appears that the unit finally got most of that too.

One real crisis occurred while the vehicles were marshalling for the parade; some overhanging branches tore a good portion of cotton batten off of one side of the roof. Thanks to a handy staple gun, repairs to the "icing" were made and the float headed into the parade as good as new.

Cpl Hamilton's wife did an excellent job on the "cookie costumes" for the kids and an especially good job on the costume for the biggest cookie of all (Cpl Wright didn't really want his identity revealed!).

We would be remiss if we didn't give special thanks to the following people for their help in the construction of the float:

Cpl Simonetti	A Sqn	Cpl St Pierre	B Sqn
Cpl Heesakker	A Sqn	Cpl Renaud	C Sqn
Cpl Landry	B Sqn	Cpl Stapledon	C Sqn
Cpl MacGuen	B Sqn	Cpl Wright	HQ Sqn

The enthusiasm displayed by all personnel concerned helped to make this year's float a real success.

THE ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note: The following SITREP from Mr. C.J. 'Syd' Williams, President of our Association reflects the initial growing pains of a new organization. I'm sure that all Dragoons, both old and new, wish the Association every success in its endeavours.

"Our first Council Meeting was held on Saturday February 22, 1975. This took some doing as our Council members are scattered across the country:

(Syd)	C.J. Williams	President	LaSalle, Quebec
(Geo)	G.J. Watier	Vice-Pres	Ile Perrot, Quebec
(Pat)	P.C.R. Black	Member	Montreal, Quebec
(Ed)	E.F. Neale	Member	Mount Royal, Quebec
(Spike)	J.E. Malone	Member	Owen Sound, Ontario
(Pat)	P.A. Forgrave	Member	Barrie, Ontario
(Barry)	R.B. Tackaberry	Member	Toronto, Ontario
(Charlie)	C.W. Smith	Member	London, Ontario

Of course four more Dragoons, the Colonel of the Regiment, the CO, the immediate past CO and the RSM, are automatically members of the Executive Council.

Our efforts at this meeting were mostly devoted to sorting out our internal organization. For example, George Watier is now the National Membership Chairman and the Quebec Provincial Chairman; Spike Malone the Ontario Provincial Chairman; Ed Neale our Treasurer and Pat Forgrave the Chairman Centennial Celebrations.

We reviewed our Charter and By-Laws, item by item. The papers should be in the hands of a lawyer very soon and we should have our National Charter shortly.

We also decided to fix our annual dues at \$5.00. Our next meeting will again be in Ottawa on May 31, 1975.

All members of The Royal Canadian Dragoons Association send their very best wishes to all members of the Regiment. May all your best thoughts come true in all your undertakings."

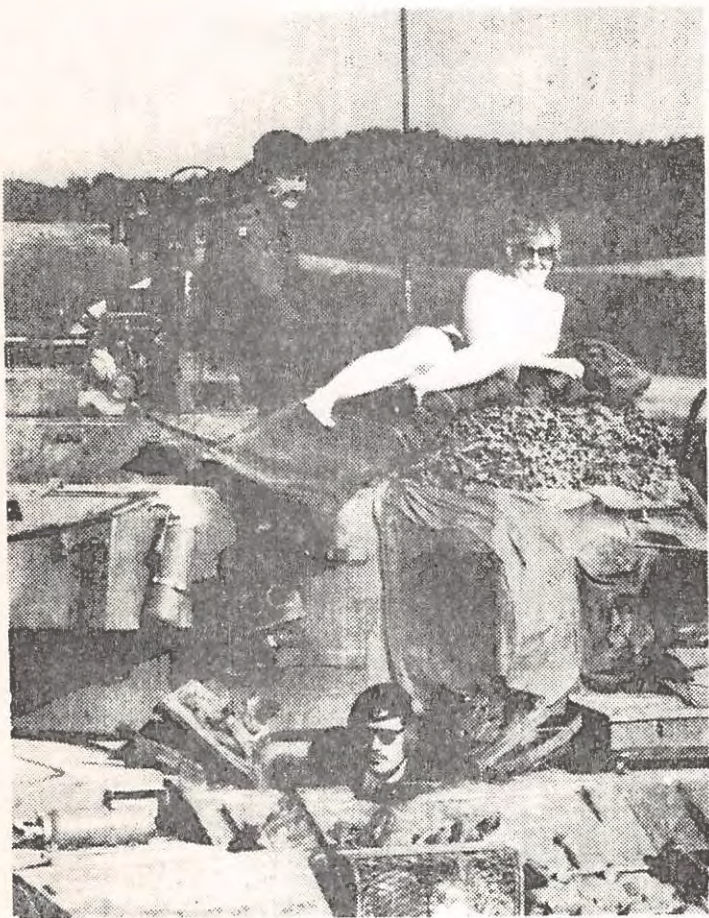
EXTRA - REGIMENTALLY EMPLOYED DRAGOONS

Editor's Note: It is this section of the Springbok which causes editors to turn grey. I sincerely believe that even our career managers have difficulty keeping up with the flow of re-badging which falls out of the annual rotation to and from Europe. To expect a mere regimental officer to also keep "in the picture" is expecting a lot. Therefore with apologies in the vanguard, herewith is our list of ERE Dragoons. Please do not hesitate to upbraid us if we are in error.

BGen	PVB	Grieve	CLFCSC
Col	PHC	Carew	NDC
Col	GG	Kitchen	CFA Office (Pakistan)
Col	AL	MacDonald	ADM (PER)
Col	KG	Troughton	CFHQPC Office
Col	MLA	Weisman	DCDS
LCol	SR	Billings	FMC HQ
LCol	RJ	Brown	CAS
LCol	JAR	Gardam	RMC
LCol	RD	Cross	CDLS(W)
LCol	HBE	Lake	FMC HQ
LCol	JB	Long	CFB Montreal
LCol	ADM	Matheson	CFB Shilo
LCol	JN	Murphy	HQ AF NOR EUROPE
Maj	RE	Acreman	CFSS Toronto
Maj	KR	Black	DCDS
Maj	WL	Claggett	DRAE
Maj	ER	Day	DCDS
Maj	LG	Del Villano	CFSC
Maj	BR	Dixon	NDHQ
Maj	WB	Fox	CFSC
Maj	JJ	Gallant	CFB Halifax
Maj	RH	Langan	CFB Borden
Maj	ECH	Latham	CAS
Maj	AG	Lawrence	ADM (PER)
Maj	A	MacLean	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Maj	WA	Methven	FMC HQ
Maj	ER	Nurse	HQ 4 CMBG
Maj	GJ	O'Conner	CAS
Maj	DC	Patterson	RSS Pacific
Maj	CA	Sangster	HQ CENTAG
Maj	KRT	Seeley	CAS
Maj	WH	Smith	DCDS
Maj	DC	Summers	FMC HQ
Maj	DG	Taylor	CDLS(L)
Maj	EJ	Wesson	CDLS(W)
Capt	A	Alexander	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Capt	WS	Andrews	CAS
Capt	HL	Ayerst	CFB Borden
Capt	RFJ	Berge	CFB Chilliwack
Capt	WR	Blair	FMC HQ
Capt	JB	Boileau	Fort Knox

Capt EP	Carey	RSS Central
Capt RF	Carruthers	FMC HQ
Capt JL	Crosby	CAS
Capt JA	Delton	CAS
Capt HE	DeCoste	FMC HQ
Capt CW	Drummond	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Capt RE	Duchemin	HQ 4 CMBG
Capt RM	Elrick	RSS Pacific
Capt WJ	Fulton	CDLS(L)
Capt DE	Gill	ADM (PER)
Capt JC	Gowans	CDLS(L)
Capt BL	Griffin	CAS
Capt GD	Henderson	ADM (Fin)
Capt BE	Hook	CFRSU Winnipeg
Capt LO	Klein	FMC HQ
Capt NR	Mauch	CFNBC(S)
Capt RG	Meating	CFB Toronto
Capt PC	Mercereau	CAS
Capt RS	Millar	Queens University
Capt B	Moore	CFSME
Capt ER	Moore	CFB Europe
Capt JJ	Price	CFRSU North Bay
Capt DRB	Rogers	FMC HQ
Capt JR	Shaftoe	ADM (PER)/CPCSA
Capt JA	Soame	VCDS/DGIS
Capt CJ	Sproule	CAS
Capt J	Thomson	CFSIT
Capt WF	Van Leeuwen	ADM (FIN)
Capt DC	Wilkinson	DCDS
Capt GW	Woollard	DRES
Capt JS	Wrigglesworth	CFOCS
CWO Bennett	GR	CFB Gagetown
CWO Brown	EA	UNEF (ME)
CWO Graham	HS	RSS Central
MWO Allt	R	CFB Kingston
MWO Patterson	SL	CAS
MWO Sulis	HR	CFRS Cornwallis
MWO Makuch	J	444 Tac Hel Sqn
MWO Thompson	DG	CLFCSC, Trenton
MWO Beattie	DA	RSS Central
WO Conrad	RE	CAS
WO Darrah	BL	CAS
WO Engyel	E	CAS
WO Hansen	IA	CFNBCS, CFB Borden
WO Hutchinson	HW	CAS
WO Koelbl	LJ	CAS
WO Lang	RL	RSS Prairie Det
WO Landry	EW	ATCHQ Det
WO Murrin	DF	CAS
WO Sampson	HC	CAS
WO Skinner	JD	CFCSA NDHQ
WO Urbanowski	TE	CAS
WO Webb	TW	FMC HQ

WO	Pierce	TR	CAS
WO	Shut	EG	CFJLS CFB Borden
Sgt	Alcock	MR	444 Tac Hel Sqn
Sgt	Burke	DJ	CFB Moncton
Sgt	Friesen	HD	CFB Gagetown
Sgt	Gill	RD	444 Tac Hel Sqn
Sgt	Good	RD	RSS Atlantic Det
Sgt	Johnston	EM	MARPAC HQ
Sgt	Mears	FR	CFNBCS, CFB Borden
Sgt	Raymond	EH	CFB Borden
Sgt	Riches	GJ	CAS
Sgt	Ross	EH	CAS
Sgt	Scaletta	F	RSS Prairie
Sgt	Sullivan	VJ	CAS
Sgt	Spence	GB	444 Tac Hel Sqn
Sgt	Stoddart	RD	CFB Borden
MCpl	Bishop	DH	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Boutilier	RR	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Brownridge	RB	CAS
MCpl	Grandy	L	CAS
MCpl	Hourihan	RJ	CAS
MCpl	Justason	BC	CAS
MCpl	Morrison	HB	CAS
MCpl	Masiuk	E	CFB Gagetown
MCpl	Shute	PM	CAS
Cpl	Barr	AD	CAS
Cpl	Brown	LW	CAS
Cpl	Bluetchen	LT	CAS
Cpl	Campbell	HA	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Douthwaite	RA	LETE Ottawa
Cpl	Gallant	AA	CAS
Cpl	Forbes	LJ	CAS
Cpl	Johnston	EG	CAS
Cpl	Lambe	MT	CAS
Cpl	Leblanc	JE	CAS
Cpl	Lavender	DH	CAS
Cpl	MacRury	DA	CFB Calgary
Cpl	Martin	BF	CAS
Cpl	Millard	JD	CAS
Cpl	Mills	WJ	NDHQ
Cpl	Miner	EA	CAS
Cpl	Moore	WA	CAS
Cpl	Murphy	LL	CAS
Cpl	Mullins	WE	LETE Ottawa
Cpl	Springer	ME	CFB Gagetown
Cpl	Stewart	BG	CAS
Cpl	Tobin	E	CAS



"Its integration . . . But will it work?"